

***Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project Phase II:***

***A Thesis***

**An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)**

**by**

Nicholas Evans

**Thesis Advisor**

Dr. Michael Doyle

**Ball State University**

**Muncie, Indiana**

*April 2019*

***Expected Graduation***

*May 2019*

## Abstract

Ball State University is over a hundred years old as of the writing of this document, yet the stories of its African American alumni, like at many other institutions of higher learning, remains relatively untold. Unless a student is to explore the hallowed establishments of Historically Black Colleges and Universities where the story of minority alumni is celebrated, the African American experience attending predominantly white, higher education institutions is largely unwritten. At Ball State University I have had the pleasure of working on two projects that were similar yet told two different stories of the university. One was the BSU Centennial Immersive project, which aimed to create a series of videos dedicated to telling the history of Ball State. However, these videos lacked one major piece of history, the distinctive experiences of minorities, and in particular, African American students and alumni. The second project was the African American Alumni Oral History Project-II, led by Dr. Michael Doyle. As a member of his team, I conducted two interviews of notable African American alumni from the mid-twentieth century, Col. Aaron (“AB”) Floyd and Ms. Ella McNeary. My thesis includes my research of my interview subjects, the transcriptions of those interviews, and the final documentary for which I served as the primary editor.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Dr. Michael Doyle for inviting me to be a part of this amazing project as well as organizing and leading it. I would also like to thank him for being my thesis advisor and a mentor. Without his incredible knowledge, drive, and understanding, the project would never have existed to begin with.

I would also like to thank our Project Assistant Directors Frank Lacopo and Chris Reidy, as well as Eleanor Johnson for the tireless hours they contributed to the success of this effort.

My fellow student team members of this project deserve recognition: Tanner Barton, Marquice Gee, Lauren Hendricks, Allison Hunt, Mitch Kissick, Jenn Kunkle, Anna Muckenfuss, Charity Munro, and La’Vonte Pugh. Thanks to your relentless dedication and work ethic, this project was immensely successful.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks and love to my two interviewees, Col. AB Floyd and Ella McNeary. The time I spent with you were some of the most enjoyable moments I have had as a student of Ball State University and I am proud that recording your stories are now part of my story, too.

## Table of Contents

### **I. Process Analysis Statement**

### **II. Oral History Portfolio: Col. Aaron Floyd**

Pre-Interview Research and Notes

Interview Questions

Interview Transcript

Thank-You Note

### **III. Oral History Portfolio: Ella McNeary**

Pre-Interview Research and Notes

Interview Questions

Interview Transcript

Thank-You Note

### **IV. Appendices**

Sources

### **V. Digital Supplements**

Link



## Process Analysis

### I. Pre-Interview Stage

Dr. Michael Doyle first created the Ball State African American Alumni Oral History Project (BSUAAAOHP) in the spring of 2015 because he noticed the conspicuous lack of African American representation in the history of Ball State University from the mid twentieth-century forward. This is evident in Anthony Edmonds and E. Bruce Geelhoed's book *Ball State University: An Interpretive History*<sup>1</sup> that was published in 2001. While the book has an extensive recounting of the history of Ball State University from its founding to the time the book was published, the stories of African Americans are few and far between. This was mostly due to the lack of readily available research materials. The goal of the BSUAAAOHP was thus to create a historical record of the stories of African American alumni, and thus providing future researchers of Ball State University or the experience of African Americans in institutions of higher education. Another goal of the Project was to instruct students in the proper techniques of Oral History research. The first iteration of the project was carried out in 2015 with twenty-two interviewees of African American alumni. The video interviews and corresponding transcripts were placed into the Ball State Digital Media Repository. Two years later, during the spring semester of 2017, the second iteration of the Project began. I was selected along with nine other students to be a part of this Project.

The first phase of our Project began by gaining a better understanding of the histories of Ball State, Muncie, and the experiences of African Americans. This involved

---

<sup>1</sup> Anthony O. Edmonds and E. Bruce Geelhoed, *Ball State University: An Interpretive History*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2001.

the reading of three books, discussed below. In February our class took a weekend trip to Washington, D.C. to explore two Smithsonian Institution facilities, the National Museum of American History and the National Smithsonian of African American History and Culture. When we returned we attended several workshops to gain the skills necessary to conduct oral history interviews. Each book had a daily reading assignment and corresponding study questions. Six pop quizzes were administered over a period of seven weeks to test our knowledge and comprehension of the reading materials. The class met twice a week over this stretch and these class times would be spent going over the reading material, planning the finished documentary product, and highlighting key terms and specific interests. This introduction into our topic and the research that coincided with it helped tremendously to establish the themes and goals of our project.

The first book that we read was *Ball State University: An Interpretive History*. As this Project is about Ball State African alumni, it was important for those of us in the Project to gain a deeper understanding the of the key ideas and events of the history of Ball State from its founding as a teacher's college up to the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The book provided critical backstory and a look at how the school's mission has changed from being a place for the preparation and education of teachers into a university that prepares students from across the world for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. It also provided us with an insight into how Ball State operated and functioned throughout the different decades of the twentieth-century, equipping us with knowledge that we could later use in our interviews when discussing our interviewee's time at Ball State University. One specific item that was mentioned in this reading was the "splendid isolation" at the University with regards to the social movements of the 60s I found that to be an

interesting anecdote and decided to later ask both of my interviewees about their experiences at Ball State University with regards to these social movements.

The second book that we read as a class was *The Other Side of Middletown: Exploring Muncie's African American Community* by Luke Eric Lassiter, et al<sup>2</sup>. When sociologists Robert and Helen Lynd selected Muncie to be the location for their Middletown studies in the 1920s and '30s they were either unaware or decided to ignore the sizeable African American community that was present in the town. As a result, the Black community was left barely mentioned in the study. Due to this oversight, Lassiter and his collaborators wrote this book so as to showcase Muncie's African American community. Lassiter's book and the research were done in collaboration with the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry and the Muncie African American community. This book gives us a greater understanding of the rich cultural and historical meaning behind African American communities, in particular, the impact on churches on African American communities and families. One of my interviewees grew up and lived in Muncie, which made the relevancy of the book and the useful information it presented all the more important.

The weekend of February 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> of 2017, our team took a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit Smithsonian Institution facilities, the National Museum of American History and the National Smithsonian of African American History and Culture. While at the latter institution our team was split up into three groups. Each group was tasked with exploring one of the three floors of the museum. There was a floor about

---

<sup>2</sup> Luke Eric Lassiter, Hurley Goodall, Elizabeth Campell, and Michelle Johnson, eds. *The Other Side of Middletown: Exploring Muncie's African American Community*. Walnut Creek: AltaMira, 2004.

African American Culture, a floor about African American Communities, and a floor that started in the basement and rose to the main floor of the museum that was about the history of African Americans. While my group was unable to make it to the floor about history, we were able to explore both the floor dealing with communities and culture. The three hours spent at the museum provided me with a greater understanding and appreciation of African American communities and the cultural impact African American's have had on the United States. As the official National Museum of African American history, it is without a doubt the most detailed, immersive, and educational museum possible.

Upon our return from D.C. we began to read the final book of the three, *Doing Oral History*<sup>3</sup> by Donald A. Ritchie. As Dr. Doyle was the only person with experience in conducting oral history projects, it was important that all of us gained the necessary rudimentary understanding of the subject. The book provided important information about the use of oral histories in historical research and the history of oral histories as a means of historical archiving. The book also provided guidelines on the various stages of an oral history interview including preparatory research, conducting interviews and publishing the work. As a supplement to this book we also read excerpts from the *Oral History Manual* by Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan<sup>4</sup>. The manual was a basic handbook for oral history interviews. Dr. Doyle also added his own experiences and expertise during this Oral History Research Workshop.

---

<sup>3</sup> Donald A. Ritchie. *Doing Oral History*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan. *The Oral History Manual*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira, 2003.

As our class was wrapping up our reading assignments, we began the final preparations for the interviews themselves. Each student was to fill out a sheet outlining their availability to conduct two interviews and film two others. Once we were assigned our two interviewees, we were expected to conduct in-depth research and begin creating questions that were tailor-made to each specific interviewee. These interviewees aided in this process by submitting a Biographical Information Form. This sheet provided basic information about the person such as their age, their hometown, and their major and degree(s) earned. They also had the opportunity to include supplemental materials to provide information about themselves. Both Col. Floyd and Ms. McNeary submitted additional materials. Before we could begin utilizing the resources at the Ball State Archives and Special Collections, we as a class, were given a workshop in how to efficiently and effectively use the Archives and Special Collections and the Ball State Digital Media Repository.

Despite the interviewees providing supplemental material and their Biographical Info Form, I wanted to gain as much additional information prior to my interview. I was able to find information on Col. Floyd on LinkedIn as well as several articles and clippings from the *Ball State Daily News* and an ROTC yearbook. Ella McNeary was a little more difficult to research in the archives. However, I was still able to gather information regarding her life from the *Daily News* as well as some articles from the *Muncie Times* newspaper. Like several of my peers I chose to structure my questions in the following order: childhood, time at Ball State University, and time after Ball State University. My personal style, when conducting interviews, is to let the interview flow like a natural conversation. While I had my own personal list of prepared questions, I also

believe that having follow-up questions that are not scripted is useful. I don't do this to surprise my interviewee but to follow-up a point they might bring up during the interview that is important to get on record.

Once I had prepared my topics and questions for each interviewee, I conducted a pre-interview telephone call with each of them. By calling the interviewees, I hoped to introduce myself, establish a rapport with them, and make sure they were aware of the topics that would be discussed during the interview. By informing them of the topics ahead of time, my purpose was to give the interviewees time to reflect prior to our meeting so that the information would hopefully be fresher in their mind.

## **II. The Interview Stage**

Prior to conducting our primary interviews, we conducted two practice interviews. Our class was split into two groups; each group was assigned to interview one of the practice interviewees, a graduating senior, James Wells and Rishad Readus, a recent alumnus. I was part of the group that interviewed James. These interviews provided much needed practice and experience for the entire team. The content that came from these two interviews was so beneficial to the Project they were both included in the documentary. To further facilitate the learning process, after the interviews, the class watched the interviews and provided detailed critiques to each of our classmates utilizing a set of evaluation criteria that Dr. Doyle provided. These critiques provided constructive suggestions and feedback to improve our interview skills.

In addition to our two interviews, we were each expected to operate the camera and audio equipment for two other interviews. As a TCOM major, I already had a strong

understanding of camera operating techniques. However, my classmates were unfamiliar with how to operate the necessary equipment. Therefore, Lavonte Pugh and I provided a one-day training session to all of our classmates to familiarize them with proper camera techniques and care.

My first interview was with Col. Aaron B. Floyd. I interviewed him in the Oral History Workshop studio on the Ball State Campus on March 27, 2017. Col Floyd had attended Ball State University as an out-of-state student from Opelika, AL. Col. Floyd originally came to Muncie to help his sister after her husband passed away. Col. Floyd decided to attend Ball State University, known then as Ball State Teachers College, from 1956-1960. Col. Floyd was very open and we talked about his entire life from his childhood in the Deep South, to meeting his wife while part of ROTC, to being at the forefront of the United States' Nuclear deterrent programs. Col Floyd also discussed how he founded his own company and how being in R.O.T.C prepared him for his future career as a businessman. My time with Col. Floyd was a pleasurable experience and a teachable moment for me about what it means to make the most of opportunity.

My second interview was with Ella McNeary, which took place on April 1, 2017. Ella McNeary had earned her Master's Degree in 1974. Before and following her graduate studies she was employed by the University from 1965-1995 and worked in the dining halls at Ball State. Her reason for leaving Ball State was a question I had considered posing. From what I could gather from the pre-interview materials, it seemed to be at least partially based on her feeling that she had experienced racial prejudice from her supervisor. However, in our pre-interview phone call she stated she was not interested in discussing it. Wishing to respect her privacy, I promised her I would not bring it up

unless she brought it up during the interview and she did not. We spent mostly focused on her time in the Civil Rights Movement as a college student at Florida A&M University and then as a member of the N.A.A.C.P. Ella's story of the Civil Rights Movement was powerful to listen to and provided a personal account that might not have been made public had she not been a part of the Project. That helped to reinforce my belief in the importance of oral history projects.

### **III. Post-Interview Stage**

The interview stage took approximately three weeks to complete from the first interview to the last. While most of my peers were busy working on their transcriptions, I had another task to accomplish first. As the only TCOM major with a focus in video production, it fell to me to do the principal editing for the project. Editing any project is a long task, but what made this project unique is that there were 22 interviews to listen to and organize with times ranging from one to two hours long, which translates to 44 hours of interviews to view. Finding good clips from these interviews was too large of a task for myself alone so I put together a small team together from our class, and with Dr. Doyle's detailed notes on each interview began to peruse the interviews.

Upon collecting the most significant clips I began the next phase of the editing process. I edit with Adobe Premier. I placed all of the interviews into the program and using the time codes from my team, I began to cut out the clips and place them into timeline for the documentary. In documentary work, the story often is formed by the interviewees and then fleshed out in the editing process. This was no different and with Dr. Doyle's help we began to organize the documentary into several themes. These



themes included the importance of a college education, racism and prejudices, Greek life, community, and perseverance. Clips from the interviewees formed each theme. In order to transition from theme to theme, testimonies from our team members were used to provide a modern take on what our interviewees had taught us. I made sure that all 22 interviewees had the opportunity to speak in the documentary. While it may not have been necessary or needed I felt it would have been a disservice to not include everyone.

Once the main timeline was established for the documentary, I proceeded to gather historical photos from the Ball State University Digital Media Repository. The purpose of gathering these photos was to provide what is known as “B-roll.” B-roll is any material, photo or video that is placed above another clip in a timeline so that the B-roll is visible instead of the clip itself. This is done to disguise edits and to provide a visual aid and to keep an audience’s attention. Again, for a task this big, I had my teammates help me gather the necessary material from the Digital Media Repository. Once I had a massive portfolio of photos I set about choosing the best ones that fit within a specific theme. After selecting the correct B-roll, I applied what is known as a “Ken Burns” effect. Essentially, what this does is allow a virtual camera to pan over a photo. The point of this effect is to provide movement when there is none so as to retain the audience.

With the B-roll completed and inserted into the timeline, the project was delivered to our student audio LaVonte Pugh editor for the final edit to the documentary’s audio. This finally gave me the chance to get started on the transcription of my interviews. In order for an interview to be uploaded to the Digital Media Repository, the interviews need to be transcribed. These transcriptions are broken down by each minute of the entire interview. This is done to make keyword searching easier so that someone looking at the

interviews later would be able to find an important phrase easier when watching the accompanying video. After interviews were completed, the memory card from the camera was sent to Unified Media Services so that the audio and video from the interview could be extracted and given to us to begin the transcribing process.

Like most elements of this project, none of the participating group members were familiar with the process of transcription. Ball State University's staff from the Archives and Special Collection provided a mandatory workshop on how to transcribe the interviews. We also had access to the *Baylor University Institute for Oral History Guide*<sup>5</sup>, which is the standard handbook, to help format our transcriptions. All transcriptions had to be approved by the staff at the Archives and Special Collections prior to being uploaded to the Digital Media Repository. Therefore, I followed style guides and rules that had been provided to us. I removed "crutch" words such as "uh", "um", and "oh." The software we used for this transcription was called Express Scribe, and the program allowed us to play back audio at different speeds and rewind and fast forward during the transcription process. Due to being the editor of the documentary, I was not able to complete my transcription before the end of the semester. I was given an extension on my transcription. Each hour of the transcription took me approximately 5 hours to complete. My interviews were approximately one hour and fifty-four minutes for Col. Floyd and one hour and thirteen minutes for Ella McNeary. It took approximately 15 to 20 hours to complete the transcriptions.

---

<sup>5</sup> Baylor University Institute for Oral History Style Guide: A Quick Reference for Editing Oral History Transcripts. Waco, TX: Baylor University Institute for Oral History, 2015.

Before the end of the semester was over, our team's audio editor returned the final "mix" of the documentary audio. Once I received the audio file I placed it into the video documentary. After that was completed, I moved on to the final stage of editing process, which is known as "coloring." The purpose behind coloring is to give video a specific stylistic look. In the case of the documentary, I did not make any significant changes to the color of the video. The only changes I made were designed to separate people from the background curtain if they had worn darker clothing, and to make video look more vibrant and to "pop." Video records in flatter, duller colors so, by making the images more vibrant, they were more pleasing to the eye. Once this was completed, I exported the documentary, now named *Tales Told Out of School: The Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project II*, so that it could be uploaded to media sites such as YouTube and Vimeo for viewing. It is today viewable from the collection site on the DMR.

I initially joined this Project because of my dual interests in history and video production. Dr. Doyle recruited me because of these interests and he sold me on the notion that I would have significant creative control over the look of the documentary. As a Sophomore production student the opportunity to work on such a large project was too good to pass up. Two years looking back on this project I think of how this really catapulted my production time at Ball State University. I have worked on three major documentaries at Ball State University including the documentary done to celebrate the University's Centennial. In the fall semester of my Senior year, I wrote and directed my own documentary, *Our Lady Victory*, about the Indy 11 Soccer team in Indiana. The skills I learned and improved, including transcription and editing on this Project, helped

me so much on those future projects. I also look back with satisfaction, knowing that I helped to contribute to the African American story in higher education in the United States, and at Ball State University. Thanks to this project, I'm aware of the impact that oral history research can have, and I am now more aware of the plight of African Americans. I am honored to have had the opportunity to contribute and been a part of this Project's story.

# **Oral History Portfolio**

**Col. Aaron B. Floyd**

Pre-Interview Notes  
Conducted by Frank Lacopo  
On 3/3/17

Initial Telephone contact with Aaron Floyd

-Served in the United States Air Force ROTC while an undergraduate at Ball State. At the time, this was the only available ROTC program available at Ball State.

-Went on active duty with the Air Force upon graduation from Ball State and was selected to receive special intelligence training. Because he had this training, he began working with early military computer systems at an Air Force "data center." Though he wanted to fly aircraft, computer work dominated his military career.

-1968-9: Floyd was transferred to Omaha, Nebraska to work in what he called the "forefront of military computer systems." This involved working in a bunker containing large IBM targeting computers.

-Floyd retired as an Air Force colonel and subsequently gained employment in the private sector. He followed this career path for a short time and then successfully applied for a loan to start his own business. This company went on to make him 72 million dollars.

-He started two major scholarship scholarships: the Aaron B. Floyd Capital Scholarship and the Scott Scholarship. These scholarships are aimed at third- and fourth-year students who have already "proven themselves" as viable students.

-I highly recommend Col. Floyd as an Oral History Project interviewee. He has a magnetic personality, is extremely ready to share his interesting story, and does most of the work of establishing rapport.



## AFROTC Cadets Attend Arnold Air Society Smoker

More than thirty AFROTC cadets attended the Arnold Air Society smoker held January 20 in the student center conference rooms.

Commander John Hatfield, Muncie senior, introduced Major Paul A. Hughes, professor of Air Science and sponsor of AAS, who was guest speaker at the smoker. After praising the society for past achievements in leadership on the Ball State campus, Art Tate, Connersville senior, was introduced. Tate, the cadet wing commander and pledge-master for the winter pledge class outlined the pledge program stating the purpose was not hazing, but is along the lines of constructive programs of leadership and social life.

The pledge program is to be conducted so that it will be in good taste and in keeping with the acceptable practices of society, Ball State Teachers College and the Air Force.

Following the pledgemaster's remarks, refreshments were served and a film describing F-104 Starfighters was shown to the rushers.

Arnold Air Society is the honorary professional fraternity of the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps. The twenty-six AFROTC cadets who have been selected to participate in spring pledging were chosen by the AAS committee and maintain an Air Science average of 3.0 and an all-school average of 2.25.

### Air Society Pledges Elect Four Officers

Arnold Air Society pledges elected officers recently at a meeting in the practical arts building. The officers for the 1959 pledge term are president, Paul Schildgen, Shelbyville junior; vice president, Jay Ritchie, Elkhart freshman; secretary, Paul Prescott, Union City freshman; and treasurer, Ray Roberts, Muncie freshman.

AAS is the honorary professional fraternity of the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps. Orlia Tate, Connersville senior and pledge trainer, stated that the pledges will carry the traditional swagger sticks as a part of the pledging program. Tate announced that twelve select pledges will compose the sabre honor guard who will escort the honorary colonel of the Air Force Ball in May. Pledging in the society will terminate in March.

## Cadets Go East To Massachusetts In Flight Series

Approximately 30 AFROTC cadets left Ball State May 8, on an orientation flight to Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts. Accompanying the cadets were two air science instructors, Captains Robert E. Seidell and Clarence E. Cross of the United States Air Force. Lloyd S. Naramore, assistant professor of education, went on the trip to represent Ball State on the field trip.

A caravan left Ball State Thursday for Bunker Hill Air Force Base where the group boarded a C-119 Flying Boxcar for the flight to Otis AFB.

Cadets will tour the base's flight line which will display USAF fighter jets and radar constellations. Otis Air Base has two main functions, air defense and early warning radar. The cadets also plan to visit Camp Edwards, a U. S. Army training base for antiaircraft artillery.

This was the last of a series of flights scheduled this year to help AFROTC cadets become acquainted with air force life and base functions. Other air base trips this year included visits to Bartow, Fla.; Palm Beach, Fla.; Lackland, Tex., and Eglin, Florida.

## AFROTC Holds Initial Party

The first annual AFROTC cadet party will be held in the student center ballroom Wednesday, Jan. 14, for all reserve officer cadets and their dates. Cadet wing commander Orlia Tate, Connersville senior, explained that the party is a special project planned by the cadet wing staff to provide an informal atmosphere where the cadets can become acquainted with each other and their officers.

The free program, which is planned from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., includes skits presented by the flights and their flight leaders, a record hop and refreshments. AFROTC detachment personnel will judge the various flight presentations and award the Falcon Trophy for the most outstanding skit.

Tate named Charles Langham, Alexandria senior, as master of ceremonies and chairman of the cadet party. Assisting Langham are Jack Bledsoe, New Castle senior, refreshments; Robert Foster, Plumb Tree junior, entertainment; Kenneth Stone, Warsaw senior, skit coordinator; Paul Davis, New Castle senior, trophy; and Jim Bannon, Morocco freshman, publicity.

## Ball State Men To Aid Military

Three Ball State students and one associate professor will help celebrate an anniversary this Sunday, Feb. 22. The 9596th Air Force reserve squadron will hold an open house Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Air Force reserve building on state road 67 south to start the Muncie squadron's tenth year of service. Charles Auxier, Key West, Florida, junior; Ray Caudill, Dunreith sophomore; and Gary Spoonamore, Muncie senior, are the student members of this squadron who will attend. Herbert H. Hamilton, assistant principal of Burris, is an instructor for the squadron. He will also attend.

Spoonamore recently received an Air Force award which was presented to him by Major Paul A. Hughes, head of air science department of Ball State Air Force ROTC detachment.

### Aviation Movies Set For Tuesday Showing

Movies about Russian and American aviation will highlight the AFROTC theater, which will be held Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m. in the practical arts building room 155.

"Case of Comrade T" reveals techniques communists use to steal or photograph secret American material. These communists often use forged papers to get jobs in defense manufacturing plants where they can engage in espionage.

Also an Air Force news review and movie about F-84F combat crew training at Luke Air Force base will be shown.

### Trophy Presented At Cadet Party

Attending the first annual AFROTC cadet party were more than two hundred fifty air force cadets and their dates. Charles Langham, Alexandria senior, was the chairman of the affair which was held recently in the Student Center ballroom.

Records were played between the skits and the reserve officers and their dates danced before and after presentations of entertainment by the various flights.

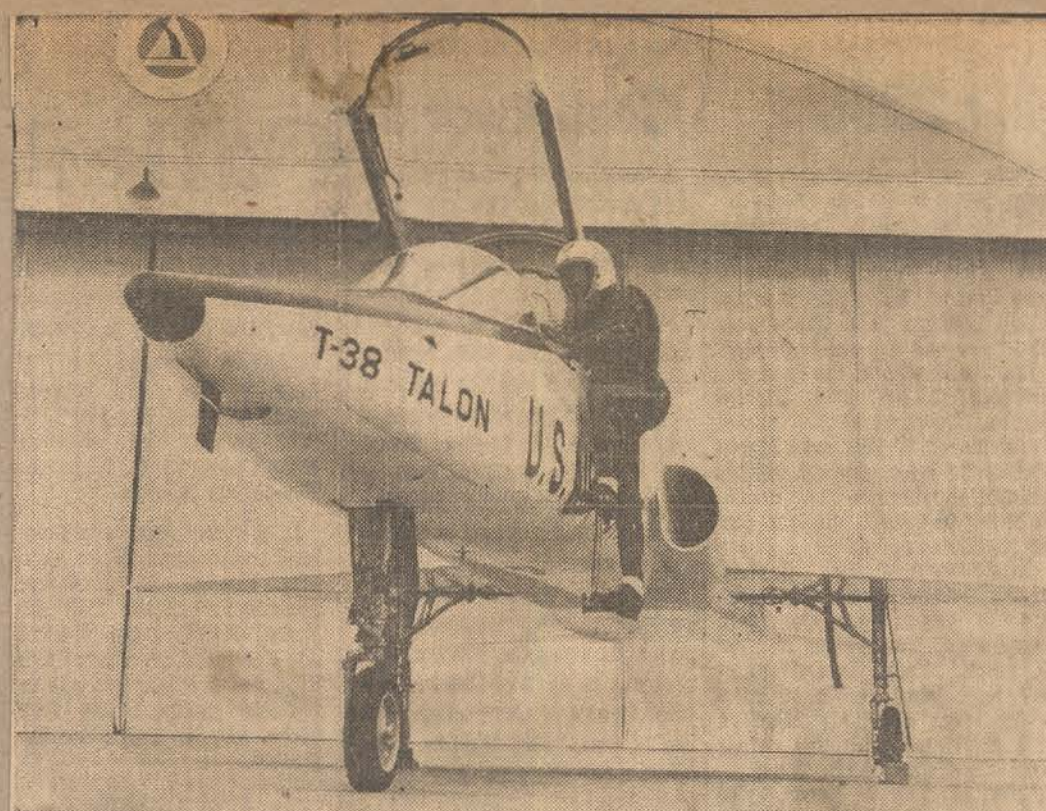
Aaron B. Floyd, Muncie junior, and flight commander of flight 3, was the recipient of the falcon trophy presented by Major Hughes on behalf of the entire wing personnel.

Judges for the event were Capt. Carter, Capt. O'Neil, Capt. Mayhew, Sgt. Mitchell, Sgt. Johnson, and Sgt. Willoughby. The skits were judged on originality, content, and appropriateness.

Eight members of the wing personnel invited as honored guests were Major and Mrs. Paul Hughes, Capt. and Mrs. Fred Mayhew, Capt. and Mrs. Paul Carter, and Capt. and Mrs. Charles O'Neil.

Cadet Colonel Orlia A. Tate,

Connersville senior, termed the first annual ROTC party a huge success and expressed anticipation of seeing the event become a highlight of the year for all AFROTC cadets.



**AIR FORCE'S NEWEST** . . . Meet the "Talon," the Air Force's newest supersonic jet. The name for the Northrop T-38 trainer was suggested by Lt. Larry C. Hewitt, of Craig AFB, Ala., who will receive an all-expense paid vacation to an area of his choice or a \$1,000 U. S. Saving Bond. The Talon is a light-weight, twin-engine jet capable of supersonic speeds at level flight.

### EXERPT FROM WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY

"TALON" - "The claw of an animal; esp., the claw of a bird of prey."

## Flight Instruction in Its Second Year



From left are Ball State AFROTC Cadet Charles D. Langham, operations officer for the cadet wing; Larry Hersinger, flight instructor for the FIP program; Cadet Paul E. Davis, first AFROTC cadet to fly this year; and Capt. James Whitmer, detachment supervisor of the flight instruction program.

After a successful first year, Ball State's AFROTC Flight Instruction Program is underway for the coming year. Cadet Paul E. Davis, New Castle senior, was the first AFROTC cadet to fly, as last week's weather permitted several cadets to get airborne.

Ball State has contracted with the Air Force to maintain the program and the Muncie Aviation Corp. serves as a sub-contractor, providing actual flight instruction. The program provides that eight senior cadets will be given 20 hours dual and 16 1/2 hours of solo flight experience between Nov. 2 and the end of May. During this time, the cadets may also qualify for their private pilot's license; however, this will be an individual choice and will have no effect on graduation or commission.

Cost Per Cadet Is \$700

Capt. James Whitmer, assistant professor of air sciences and director of the program for the local detachment explains that

whereas cadets may "wash out" at any point in this program, the cost per cadet in this training is only \$700; whereas, should the cadet wash out in the regular Air Force program, the amount invested there would total nearly \$50,000.

Capt. Whitmer listed the goals of the program: To encourage qualified basic AFROTC cadets to enroll as pilot training applicants, to motivate cadets toward ultimate careers as officers and pilots in the U. S. Air Force, and to provide a screening device which will identify those pilot training applicants who lack the basic aptitudes for Air Force pilot training.

The cadets will receive their training in 160-horsepower Piper Tri-Pacers at Johnson Field. Ball State Cadets participating in the program are Paul E. Davis, New Castle; Jack H. Bledsoe, New Castle; Charles D. Langham, Alexandria; Herbert C. Hildebrandt, Auburn; Thomas K. Rhodes, Anderson; Eugene J. Roose, Mishawaka; Kenneth D. Stone, Warsaw; and James C. Vaughn, Anderson. All are seniors who have completed three years of their Air Science Work and have signed applicable career reserve statements indicating intentions to serve on active duty with the Air Force for a period of five years.

### ROTC Presents Exhibition Series

Units of Ball State's Air Force ROTC are presenting a series of exhibitions during the college's spring quarter according to a schedule released today by Major Paul A. Hughes, commandant of the college units.

The scheduled exhibitions by the drill team include a competitive exhibition tourney at the University of Illinois March 14; a competitive exhibition tournament sponsored by the Reserve Officer's Association in Chicago April 18; the Air Force ROTC annual honor's day scheduled for the Ball State campus May 13; a special exhibition for a high school convocation at New Castle May 21; tentatively the unit plans to participate in armed forces day activities in Muncie and Anderson.

A color guard unit will also participate in the May 21 convocation at New Castle and the armed forces day activities.

The drill team is named the "Matadors" and is commanded by Allan G. Eckert, San Pierre junior; John Slinkard, Elkhart junior, serves as its logistics officer; and Tom Baumgartner, Fort Wayne junior, is administrative officer for the team. Don Roberts, Noblesville junior, is commander of the color guard unit.

Other air force exhibition units maintained by the college Air Force ROTC include a band and the Angel Flight, a special marching exhibition unit made up of Ball State coeds.

## AFROTC Cadets Tour East



Leaving for a motivational flight to Eglin AF Base, Mass., are 20 Ball State AFROTC cadets. The crew for the flight came from Balakair AF Base, Columbus, Ind., while Capt. James Whitmer was the projects officer. Dr. Curtis Howd, Burris laboratory school principal was the institutional representative who accompanied the cadets.

Previous flights participated in by Ball State cadets included trips to Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Georgia, and South Carolina. According to Capt. Robert Seidell, operations officer who arranges all flights, next year's program will include visits to AF bases in Delaware, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Massachusetts.

Photo by Jim Bannon





## BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

*Sunday, June 7, 9:00 a. m. (c. d. t.)*

*South Terrace, Arts Building*

### Processional

"Grand March" from Aida, Verdi  
The Ball State Commencement Orchestra  
Dr. Robert Hargreaves, Director

### Invocation

David Joseph Seip, Senior  
Ball State Teachers College

### Hymn

"O God Our Help in Ages Past"  
The Congregation

### Chorale

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" arr. by Mueller  
The Ball State Commencement Choir  
Mr. F. Lemuel Anderson, Director

### Scripture

Psalm One  
Dr. John R. Emens, President  
Ball State Teachers College

### Address

"The Mission of the Healthy Mind"  
The Rev. Jack Mendelsohn  
Minister, The All Souls Unitarian Church  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### Benediction

David Skelton, Senior  
Ball State Teachers College

### Recessional

"Swedish Coronation March" Svendsen

## STUDENT MARSHALS

*These students were recommended by the junior class sponsors*

*and appointed for this service by the President*

Richard W. Bare  
Joan M. Cleveland  
Linda Sue Cline  
Patty Jo Cummings  
Sharon L. Endicott  
Clinton F. Fuelling  
Jack E. Good  
Mary L. Halley

Judith K. Johnson  
Linda A. Lightner  
Walter R. Lockwood  
Morry E. Mannies  
Janice M. Marshall  
Margaret A. Maupin  
Robert W. Meadows  
Mary Alice Menaugh

Robert D. Miller  
George M. Mock  
Jerry R. Myers  
Martha M. Nauman  
James M. Orr  
Judith A. Phillips  
Regeana D. Richards  
Charles P. Rider

Barbara L. Sedlak  
Uldis N. Smidchens  
Beverly K. Thomas  
Aaron E. Thompkins  
Robert H. Tremper  
Walter H. Zolman  
Richard F. Stedcke,  
Honorary

## MILITARY AIDES

*These students were recommended by the Air Science staff*

*and appointed for this service by the President*

Thomas L. Baumgartner  
Harold H. Black  
David N. Blair  
Roger C. Blume  
Roy W. Douglass  
Allan G. Eckert  
Douglas W. Eichorst  
Aaron B. Floyd

Robert E. Foster  
Kenneth L. Frazee  
Jimmie D. Gray  
Rudolph R. Gurrola  
Francis E. Hendrickson  
Howard N. Hill  
Thomas P. Hoffman  
Richard D. Hoover

Thomas R. Johnson  
Charles G. King  
Jerry A. King  
James L. Kirkman  
Charles L. Masters  
Hayden G. McQueen  
Raymond F. Meeker  
Joel H. Moore

Paul R. Prescott  
Max W. Reed  
Paul R. Schildgen  
Darrel D. Shinn  
Kenneth E. Smith  
Phillip J. Smith  
Clarence A. B. Warfel  
Dennis M. Werking

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY - BALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND BALL STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

*South Terrace, Arts Building, Sunday, June 7, 5:00 p. m. (c. d. t.)*

### Concert

Symphonic Wind Ensemble  
Earl Dunn, Director

### \*Processional

The Ensemble  
"Regal Procession"  
Clifton Williams

### The National Anthem

The Audience

### Invocation

Rev. Frank Stevenson  
Minister, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

### The Commencement Address

Dr. Virgil M. Hancher, President  
State University of Iowa  
"The Other Side of the Hill"

### The Flag Bearers

Paul E. Snyder, President of the Junior Class, **The American Flag**  
Richard Otolski, President of the Sophomore Class, **The Indiana Flag**  
Michael Sacchini, President of the Freshman Class, **The Ball State Flag**

### Conferral

Degrees, Certificates, and Commissions

Edmund F. Ball, President

Ball Memorial Hospital Association

Dr. John R. Emens, President

Ball State Teachers College

President Emens

### Charge to the Class

The Audience

### College Hymn

"Alma Mater," Gladys Schindler Chrisman, '30

### \*Recessional

The Ensemble

"March Processional"

Clare Grundman

*\*Audience will please remain seated*

Each member of the graduating classes of Ball State Teachers College in 1959 will receive a year's membership in the Ball State Alumni Association as a gift from the Association.



The financial constraints of the college's economic situation between 1930 and 1945 prevented the hiring of any number of new faculty who may have broadened the college's outlook beyond its traditional mission of teacher education. Indeed, the depression and war years contributed to a further entrenchment of faculty whose outlook signified a permanent emphasis on teacher training as the college's fundamental academic purpose. Emens's arrival on campus in the fall of 1945 foreshadowed a renewed emphasis on the college's commitment to teacher education. As a professional educator, Emens counted his achievements in the realm of strengthening the preparation and evaluation of teachers, tasks that he forcefully reemphasized once he assumed the presidency at Ball State.

As a result, by the end of World War II, Ball State had not advanced far beyond the provincialism that characterized it during the 1920s. And, whereas ease of location and affordability may have been major reasons the college survived the 1930s and 1940s, the same factors led to a continuation of its isolation from the wider educational community.

Such characteristics ultimately caused the college to be viewed in that light: affordable and comfortable, modest in its academic aspirations, and living in splendid isolation from the mainstream of educational thought and practice. As the Lynds quoted one male graduate of the college in the mid-1930s: "X [Ball] State College is a joke to Middletown. It's a lousy institution. What do they teach you there? They take (John) Dos Passos off the shelves so you won't get polluted. Everybody out there's afraid of the shadow of a real idea."<sup>108</sup>

By the end of World War II, however, such questions as the future direction of the institution were largely ignored. With the war now past history, a dynamic young new president on campus in the person of Dr. John R. Emens, and legions of male students poised to enter college with the support of the GI Bill, Ball State faced a new chapter in its history. By the late 1940s, the days of scarcity, austerity, and anxiety about institutional survival were over, and Ball State reckoned with the frenetic growth of the postwar generation's enrollment boom.



Ball State University Black Alumni Constituent Society scrapbook : outstanding Black alumni, Allen Williams Ball State University Black Alumni Collection, Ball State University. University Libraries. Archives and Special Collections. <http://libx.bsu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/WllmsAlln/id/2283/rec/2>

**Col. Aaron B. Floyd '60**

President and CEO of Aaron B. Floyd Enterprises, Inc., Mr. Floyd founded and directs the high technology management, engineering and computer services firm. The company has offices in Alabama, Virginia and Georgia. Commissioned a second lieutenant in the United State Air Force in 1960, Mr. Floyd progressed steadily in the intelligence, computer and communications areas. He retired in 1984 and entered the private sector, beginning his own high tech defense firm, ABF, Inc. in 1989. He holds a master's degree in management from the University of Nebraska and completed the Executive Course for Senior Defense Managers, taught at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Active in community affairs he is second national vice president of the Tuskegee-Airmen, Inc., and creator of the Tuskegee Airmen Briefing Team with chief Alfred Anderson and Col. Herbert Carter. The team's name is taken from the black flyers trained in Tuskegee in 1941, who became the 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, and 477<sup>th</sup> Composite Fighter Bomber Group in WWII. Mr. Floyd is an active member of the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association, the International Testing and Evaluations Association, the American Management Association, the National Urban League, NAACP, and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. His wife is the former Lavon Scott of Fort Wayne, and they have three daughters, Angela, Candace and Cecelia.



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ball State will honor Distinguished Alumni, Benny Award, and G.O.L.D. Award (Graduates of the Last Decade) recipients during Homecoming weekend at the annual Alumni Association Awards Dinner, Friday, September 26, at the Alumni Center. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association. The Benny Award is presented for service to the university or the BSUAA. The G.O.L.D. Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments of recent graduates.

## HE STAYS ON COURSE AARON B. FLOYD, '60

Whether in business or golf, Aaron Floyd knows it pays to stay positive. "You can't be an entrepreneur if you let failures get you down," says the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. "You always have to be looking forward; you can never be looking backward."

His glass-is-half-full mentality has led him from mopping floors at Ball Memorial Hospital while in college, to becoming a colonel in the United States Air Force, to founding and growing two successful businesses.

Floyd is the founder, president, and chief executive officer of Aaron B. Floyd Enterprises, Inc., which provides information technology services to the federal government. He also began his own high-tech defense firm, ABF, Inc., in 1989.

A group commander while in ROTC at Ball State, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force in 1960, where he quickly progressed through the ranks. By his military retirement in 1984, he had achieved the rank of colonel.

Though he has achieved success in both his military and private-sector careers, Floyd is most proud of his family. He met his wife, LaVon, at a NAACP meeting at Ball State's student center. Today, they have three daughters and six grandchildren, and the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

A graduate of Ball State's biology program, Floyd credits BSU for the educational foundation he says was crucial to his achievements. "Not only did I go to Ball State, but my wife also went," he says. "Her sister and her father went to Ball State. ... Ball State has a legacy for the family."

The Floyd family recently established and endowed the Aaron B. and LaVon S. Floyd and Dr. Levan R. Scott Scholarship, which he hopes will help minority students at Ball State in financial need.

wanted to help the guys like me who were on campus and needed a couple of thousand bucks for that next semester," he says.

Floyd earned a master's degree in management from the University of Nebraska, completed the Executive Course for Senior Defense Managers, and taught at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

He is the second national vice president of the Tuskegee-Airmen, Inc., and is an active member of the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association, the American Management Association, the National Urban League, NAACP, and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

He also mentors other entrepreneurs, including his daughter, through M 2 M Capital Corp., a minority-to-minority financial and business partner.

A 2001 Outstanding Black Alumni Award recipient, Floyd recently spent a day speaking with students in Ball State's Miller College of Business, encouraging them to pursue their goals. "I was there to tell them, 'Continue with it. It does work. You can be successful,'" he says.

From semi-retirement in Jacksonville, Florida, Floyd is proof that persistence pays. He remains committed to sharing his knowledge with young business professionals, guiding them toward success, as his own list of triumphs continues to grow. Looking across the water from his home, reflecting on his illustrious career, he has time now to relish another accomplishment: victory on the golf course.

*by Jessica Riedel*



## BENNY AWARD RECIPIENTS

### BRENDA S. COX, '84

Brenda Cox is the manager of product technical support at Wiley Publishing in Indianapolis. She is receiving the Benny Award for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the Ball State Alumni Association. Cox serves as president of the Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter Board of Directors and chairman of this year's Indianapolis Alumni Theatre Outing.

Ball State University Black Alumni Constituent Society scrapbook : awards and honors], Allen Williams Ball State University Black Alumni Collection, Ball State University. University Libraries. Archives and Special Collections. <http://libx.bsu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/WllmsAlln/id/2283/rec/2>

### DAVID E. LAND, '69MA74EDS82

David Land is the assistant principal at Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High School in Hagerstown. Land retired from Ball State in 2007 as director of athletic compliance. He is receiving the award after serving as an at-large representative on the Alumni Council from 1985 to 2007. Committees on which he served while on the Council include alumni communications and publications, alumni scholarship, Benny Award, corporate sponsorship, Distinguished Alumni Award, fundraising and Telefunds, nominating, services, Oliver Bumb Scholarship, and Robert E. Linson Scholarship.



AIR FORCE ROTC CURRICULUM ADJUSTMENT

- I. Air Science 1, Foundations of Air Power - 1. A general survey of air power designed to provide the student with an understanding of the elements of air power and basic aeronautical science. Two class hours each semester or quarter. (This course to be implemented in academic year 1958-59.)

Outline

1. Introduction to Air Force ROTC.
2. Elements and Potentials of Air Power.
  - a. Fundamentals of Air Power
  - b. Military Air Power
  - c. Military Research, Development and Procurement
  - d. Air Vehicle Industries
  - e. Airlines and Airways
  - f. General Aviation
3. Air Vehicles and Principles of Flight
  - a. Elements of an Aircraft
  - b. Aerodynamics and Lift
  - c. Stability, Control, Navigation and Guidance
  - d. Propulsion Systems
  - e. Space Vehicles
4. Military Instruments of National Security
  - a. Military Policy of the United States
  - b. Department of Defense
    - (1) Legislative Enactment
    - (2) Organization and Components
    - (3) Mission
5. Professional Opportunities in the United States Air Force
  - a. Career Opportunities
  - b. Pay and Allowances
  - c. Personal Benefits
  - d. Educational Opportunities
  - e. Intangible Benefits



- II. Air Science 2, Foundations of Air Power - 2. A more advanced consideration of Air Power as exemplified by the combat operational capabilities of the United States Air Force. Two class hours each semester or quarter. (This course to be implemented in academic year 1959-60. The old Air Science 2 course will be taught in academic year 1958-59.)

Outline

1. The Evolution of Aerial Warfare
  - a. Introduction to the Art of Warfare
  - b. Basic Principles of War
  - c. Present Concepts of Ground and Naval Warfare
  - d. Air Warfare Before World War II
  - e. The Development of the Modern Concept of Air Warfare
  - f. Air Warfare During and After World War II
2. Weapon System Development
  - a. Early Concepts
  - b. Conventional Weapons
  - c. Chemical and Biological Weapons
  - d. Thermo-Nuclear Weapons
  - e. Aircraft
  - f. Bases
  - g. Missiles
  - h. Personnel
  - i. The Weapon System in the United States Air Force Today
3. United States Air Force Operations
  - a. Peacetime
    - (1) Political Actions
    - (2) Diplomatic and Humanitarian Actions
  - b. Wartime
    - (1) Counter Air Operations
    - (2) Counter Surface Operations
    - (3) Counter Resource Operations
4. The Future of Air Power

III. Air Science 3, Leadership Principles and Practices. Introduces Air Force ROTC cadets to principles of leadership as they apply to Air Force problems and tasks. Involves major socio-psychological principles of leadership, a consideration of the leader-follower relationship in an Air Force environment, and communication theory relevant to leadership. Leadership practices concentrate on important behavior skills basic to leader performance with provision for practice and development of basic behavior skills in a realistic problem situation. Four class hours each semester or quarter. (This course to be implemented in academic year 1959-60. The old Air Science 3 course will be taught in Academic year 1958-59.)

#### Outline

1. Introduction
  - a. Leadership and Mission
  - b. The Nature of Communication
  - c. Learning
  - d. Instructional Techniques and Devices
  - e. Speaking to Inform an Audience
  - f. Practice Teaching: Commander and Staff and Sq Organization
2. Problem Solving
  - a. What is a Problem? (Includes Moral Problems)
  - b. Systematic Approach to Problem Solving
  - c. Creative Thinking
  - d. Practice Logic
3. Information
  - a. The nature and Uses of Information
  - b. Gathering Information by Observation, Reading and Listening
4. Human Behavior
  - a. The Biology of Behavior
  - b. Personality and Complex Needs
  - c. Intense Motivation
  - d. Attitudes and Value Systems
  - e. Habits, Prejudices, and Communication
  - f. The Individual and the Group
  - g. You, the Leader
  - h. Practicing Teaching: Organization and Management
5. Staff Action
  - a. The Staff Conference
  - b. Writing the Staff Report
  - c. Enabling the Decision: Coordination, Briefing, Completed Staff Work
  - d. Decision Making and Command
6. Problems in Leadership and Staff Work
7. The Legal and Physical Environment, Including:
  - a. Military Justice
  - b. The Air Base (Includes Practice Teaching and Problems)

IV. Air Science 4, Global Relations. A study of global relationships of special concern to the Air Force officer with attention to such aspects as weather, navigation, geography, and international relations. This year has been divided into courses as indicated: (This course will be implemented in academic year 1960-61. The old Air Science 4 course will be taught in academic year 1958-59 and 1959-60.)

A. Weather and Navigation. An introduction, presenting the weather and navigational aspects of airmanship, such as temperature, pressure, air masses, precipitation, weather charts, navigational charts and dead reckoning navigation. Two semester hours or four quarter hours. (The 4-quarter-hour course includes the sections of Military Aspects of World Political Geography dealing with globes and maps in the Aig Age World, and the Geography of Climate.)

B. International Relations. A study of the major factors underlying international tensions - nationalism, imperialism, and communism; the attempts to alleviate these tensions - balance of power concepts, The League of Nations, the United Nations and regional security organizations; and the rise of the two super-powers - the United States and the U.S.S.R. Two semester hours or three quarter hours.

C. Military Aspects of World Political Geography. The concepts of the military aspects of political geography; maps and charts; factors of power; and the geographic influences upon political problems with a geopolitical analysis of the strategic areas. Three semester hours or four quarter hours.

D. The Air Force Officer. Material to help the cadet make a rapid, effective adjustment to active duty as an officer of the United States Air Force. One semester hour or one quarter hour.

#### Outline

##### Weather and Navigation

2 semester hours  
4 quarter hours

1. Weather and climate
2. Earth and Space
3. Circulation and Wind Patterns
4. Temperature and Heat Transfer
5. Pressure, Moisture, and Stability
6. Air Mass Weather, Frontal Weather, and Thunderstorms
7. Fog and Icing
8. World Weather
9. Earth's Surface and Mapping
10. Dead Reckoning Navigation
11. Aids to Dead Reckoning
12. Polar Navigation
13. High-Speed Navigation

### Introduction to International Relations

2 semester hours

3 quarters hours

1. The Growth of Nationalism
2. Imperialism
3. Communism
4. Balance of Power
5. International Organizations
6. Regional Organizations of States
7. The Rise of the U.S.S.R. to World Power
8. The Rise of the United States to World Power

### Military Aspects of World Political Geography

3 semester hours

4 quarter hours

1. Meaning and Scope of Political Geography
- \*2. Globes and Maps in the Air Age World
3. Global Strategic Views
- \*4. Geography of Climate
5. Factors Influencing the Power of States
6. Anglo-America
7. Latin America
8. The Polar World (Arctic and Antarctic)
9. The U.S.S.R.
10. Eastern Europe
11. Western Europe
12. Africa
13. The Middle East
14. South and Southeast Asia
15. China
16. Japan, Korea, and Formosa
17. Australia and Oceania

\*This material taught as a part of the Weather and Navigation course in the quarter schools.

### The Air Force Officer

1 semester hour

1 quarter hour

1. Preparing for Active Duty
2. Reporting for Active Duty
3. The Duty Assignment
4. Personal and Professional Considerations
5. Modern Aerial Doctrine - AFM 1-2

V. Leadership Laboratory. No change is planned in the leadership laboratory program for each year.



INDIANA COMMISSION ON TEACHER TRAINING AND LICENSING

The program of the Armed Services of the United States, designed to prepare officers for the several branches, has been an established part of higher education for some time. The men who are currently taking AFROTC programs in our colleges and universities should be the kind of persons we would like to have in teaching.

However, under present arrangements of licensing, students enrolled in AFROTC find it impossible to graduate within the normal pattern if they take AFROTC in addition to meeting the requirements for the preparation of teachers as now described in Bulletin 192.

To have a specific example, may we refer to the situation at Ball State Teachers College. The standard requirement for graduation is 192 quarter hours. These hours are divided as follows:

Professional Education.....	28
General Education.....	58
	<u>86</u>
Preparation for Comprehensive Area.....	64
Preparation for Conditional Area.....	28
Electives.....	<u>14</u>
	192 hours

Most men enroll in AFROTC for many obvious reasons. AFROTC equals 36 hours credit. If they meet current requirements, one of several results occur. All electives are absorbed by AFROTC which destroys the idea of electives. Even then a program runs well over the normal, as is shown by the figures below.

86	86
64 Comprehensive	64 Comprehensive
28 Conditional	36 Restricted
36 AFROTC	36 AFROTC
<u>214</u>	<u>222</u> hours

If the student wants to qualify for a restricted area rather than a conditional, the result is obviously worse. Several alternatives for alleviating this situation are possible.

1. The number of hours allotted to AFROTC might be reduced, but probably not more than 6 hours.

2. The courses now counted as general education might be sacrificed by allowing AFROTC to be substituted. This defeats the idea of general education.

3. The standard load of the student is 16 hours per quarter. One could require an overload equaling 18 hours per quarter, 54 per year, 216 for the four years. An overload by definition is more work than is desirable, and such a scheme required all AFROTC students to take more than is desirable.

Copy

June 27, 1958

Major General T. C. Rogers, USAF  
Commandant, Air Force ROTC  
Air University  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

Dear General Rogers: I have taught with a great deal of interest in  
the Air Force ROTC program and its development, particularly in the area of  
the Air Force ROTC program.

Your letter of May 5 and Dr. Harding's report on the  
Air Force ROTC Civilian Instructor Program were referred  
to the Dean of the College for discussion with heads of  
potentially affected departments. We have people who we  
feel are well qualified, but the problem of payment of  
salaries would be a difficult one. If the Air Force ROTC  
has ways of carrying the expense involved, we should be  
happy to have regular members of our faculty teach selected  
Air Science courses.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Emens, President

js

cc: Dr. H. F. Harding

Chairman, Department of Air Science, Ohio State University

Two books routed to:

① Cooper  
Beck  
Burkhardt

② La Follette  
Stroth  
Hughes

Copy

10 April 1958

Dr. John R. Emens, President  
Ball State Teachers College  
Muncie, Indiana

Dear Dr. Emens:

For the past two years The Ohio State University-Air Force ROTC Supervisory Committee has been conducting a unique experiment. We have been supporting, under a grant from the Merghon Fund, a program in which civilian professors have taught such courses as International Tensions and Security Organizations, Fundamentals of Global Geography, Military Aspects of World Political Geography, Communicating in the Air Force, Problem Solving and Leadership and Management within the Air Force Curriculum.

I am enclosing a copy of the concise edition of our 1956-57 report. This will give you in brief form a summary of our accomplishments to date.

We have received a number of commendations for this particular program, and Major General Turner C. Rogers, USAF, Commandant, Air Force ROTC, has recently announced that most of our recommendations for the organization of the curriculum will be adopted in all Air Force ROTC units in 1958-59.

We are especially anxious to have other colleges and universities consider the possibilities of undertaking in a modest way what we have tried to do. May I therefore suggest that you turn over this report to a committee composed of the Professor of Air Science and the faculty person in charge of supervising your AFROTC program and ask that they advise you about courses of action.

We will answer inquiries from your staff and faculty and we will be glad to welcome any visitors you care to send to observe our program.

Yours Sincerely,

H. F. Harding  
Chairman



Dr. Tapley, Evansville College

*President Ennis*

*This letter was sent to all persons attending the meeting.*

Col. Harold T. Babb  
Purdue University

August 6, 1958

*True* Lt. Col. Alex C. Jamieson  
Butler Univ.

*Box 40*

Dean Donald R. Mallett  
Purdue Univ.

Col. James G. Gross  
Indiana Univ.

Mr. William Strain  
Indiana Univ.

*Folder 29*

Dr. J. Hartt Walsh  
Butler University  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dr. J. Hartt Walsh, Butler Univ.  
Lt. Col. Ned M. Letts, Depauw Univ  
Dr. Albert E. Reynolds " "  
Dr. Clinton Green " "  
Dean Robert H. Farber " "  
Dean E. M. McKown, Evansville College  
Lt. Col. Walter J. Hearn " "

Dear Dr. Walsh:

You will recall that our meeting at the Kitzelman Conference Center here on March 21, 1958, was concerned with the problem of the heavy AFROTC cadet academic load, imposed on future secondary teachers by the requirement of the Indiana Teacher Training and Licensing Commission to become qualified in two subject areas. Then, as that concluded, it was the consensus of opinion that AFROTC should be declared acceptable by the Commission as a comprehensive or conditional area within that requirement.

Since that time, a very interesting development has taken place. At its meeting on July 18, 1958, the Teacher Training and Licensing Commission adopted Rule 16 (revised 1958), Standards for Secondary Teachers' Certificates. Section IV of this rule states that, as one of the options, credit of 40 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours in one comprehensive area will suffice for a Secondary Teacher's Provisional Certificate, with no requirement for a restricted, special, or second comprehensive area.

Thus, it would appear that the revised state requirement offers an option which will permit each institution of higher education to move as it sees fit in establishing a reasonable academic load for AFROTC cadets who are preparing themselves to be secondary teachers.

It was a great pleasure to have you visiting with us on this matter, and I hope that you will find an occasion to visit with us again soon.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Burkhardt  
Dean of the College

rkm

Air Force/ROTC department records, 1953-1958, Box 40, Folder 26, Richard W. Burkhardt papers, Ball State University Archives and Special Collections, Ball State Libraries.

B. S. T. C. R. O. T. C.

R G. 13. 08. 01 Box 1 folder 4  
October 1, 1957

JAN 28 '58

AIR SCIENCE FIELD TRIPS  
(Orientation Flights and Air Base Visitations)

It has been said that a person's education is the direct result of his personal experiences. Therefore, in this age of private, commercial and military aviation, with guided missiles coming up on the horizon, The Air Science Department arranges field trips to offer BSTC students the opportunity to become airborne and to tour an active, representative Air Force base, observing some of the most modern aircraft in existence.

HOW LONG DOES SUCH A FIELD TRIP TAKE? Since we must drive 2 or 3 hours from Muncie to a suitable aircraft loading point and then fly to the selected destination, the trip requires a day of travel each way and a day for the air base tour - a total of 3 days. This may be reduced after the Muncie Airport is completed and flights can leave from here.

HOW MANY OF THESE FIELD TRIPS ARE NEEDED EACH YEAR? Since available aircraft capacity is 30-35 passengers, a total of 17 trips would be required for each of the 500-plus cadets to go one time.


WHAT TIME OF THE WEEK OR YEAR MAY THE TRIP BE SCHEDULED? School holidays are naturally used to the utmost. Then, in accordance with BSTC policy, field trips may not be scheduled within the two weeks preceding final exams. Since the Air Force bases have very limited activity on weekend, the tour of the base needs to be scheduled on a weekday. When planned on a Thursday-Friday-Saturday, the trip reduces the number of college classes missed. In recent years, cadet flights scheduled from the Muncie area between December 15 and March 15 have been cancelled because of the unsafe conditions created by snow, ice and fog.

Air Force/ROTC department records, 1953-1958, Box 40, Folder 26, Richard W. Burkhardt papers, Ball State University Archives and Special Collections, Ball State Libraries.

Last April the nationwide tightening of the purse strings slashed the Air Force flying funds for the remainder of the fiscal year 1956-1957 and made it impossible to obtain aircraft for these field trips. Such a tightening may very well occur again in the latter part of this fiscal year. Therefore trips are being scheduled before December 15, excluding the two weeks prior to Autumn Final Exams, and on school holidays whenever possible. If Air Force flying funds are not slashed, a few trips may be scheduled after March 15 under similar conditions.

IF YOU FEEL THAT ANY OF YOUR STUDENTS ARE DOING SUB-STANDARD WORK BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN AIR SCIENCE (AFROTC) ACTIVITIES, PLEASE LET US KNOW. The students' other college work should not suffer significantly because of Air Science field trips. The student is expected to perform any necessary makeup work for the classes missed. He must maintain a 2.0 scholastic average to progress satisfactorily toward his degree, and Air Science extracurricular participation should be a broadening and leadership-developing activity without being the direct cause for low grades in college courses.

Thus far 60 students have visited Air Force bases this year. With your understanding and cooperation, many more BSTC students will receive this educational opportunity and broaden their preparation for teaching or other fields of endeavor.

  
PAUL A. HUGHES  
Major, USAF  
Department Head



pre interview call w/ Col Floyd  
March 22, 2017 3:00 pm

Myland Brown DMR (Coral history, Project)  
- Alabama

- get from childhood to college
- ask about high school
- ask about family date, hometown,
- ~~ask~~ parents, siblings,

ASK prep for interview BSN

Students read black black black  
historians mentioned -

war

What was it like to be serving ~~in~~  
after Nam

link BSN to military if possible  
values, philosophy, wisdom, experience

AROTC clipping question

I came across yearbook from  
bba' bba' ~~that~~ that had mentioned

BSN Board 3-4 yrs ago

KSI on muncie  
founded in Bloomington  
- minority campus

## Questions For Col. Floyd

### **Hometown:**

- At a young age family plays a huge role in shaping a person. Could you describe your family to me?
- You grew up in the Deep South in the 30s, 40s and 50s. As an African American child what was that like?
- There is a saying; it takes a village to raise a child. Was that the case with Opelika?
- To a child the world around them seems to be rather impressive and large. Can you describe Opelika to me growing up?

### **Childhood**

- Children always have some interesting tales of mischief growing up; can you describe to me some of your childhood adventures?
- You grew up at the tail end of the Great Depression and also during World War 2. As a child were you conscious of the important world events going on?
- Tuskegee, AL where the Tuskegee airmen trained is only half an hour away from Opelika. What did it mean to you that African Americans were training to be fighter and bomber pilots?
- Can you tell me more about your experiences in High school?
- Obviously you were part of ROTC in college and when you graduated you were part of the Air Force. Was this your plan when you were going through high school?

### **College**



- You came to campus in 1956 as freshman. Could you describe to me your first thoughts of Ball State Teachers College as a freshman?
- Could you describe to me a normal day for you at Ball State?
- As part of this project students read *Ball State: An Interpretive History*. In it the authors often describe BSU as being in “splendid isolation” With regards to the various movements within the Era of Civil Rights did you find this to be bothersome or did you just accept that as being the norm?

## **ROTC**

- In 1958 Dean Burkhardt was concerned with heavy course load that ROTC students had. Do you feel that you had a heavy course load as a cadet in ROTC?
- I have a letter from Maj. Hughes describing the importance of Field Trips taken by ROTC cadets. Do you feel as though field trips were important to your ROTC experience?
- I came across a clipping from the AROTC yearbook that mentioned that you attended the first ARTOC Cadet party, you also received an award on behalf of flight S. Can you describe the night to me as best you can?
- Students on campus often have a professor or faculty member on campus that had a profound impact on their future. Do you have a faculty member who had an impact on you like that?
- In the 1959 Commencement you were given the distinct honor of being a military aid. Can you describe to me your emotions during commencement?

## **Military Service**

- According to the work done by GA Frank Lapoco, you were assigned to work with the early computer systems the USAF employed. What was the reason for this?
- A good chunk of your service time was during the peak of the Vietnam War. Did you have any friends that saw combat?
- According to your resume you had several different postings and assignments. What was your favorite?
- You served in the Air Force from the start of the escalation in Vietnam through the end of the war and a little afterwards. Can you tell me what the general mood was following end of Vietnam?
- There are often mixed reactions from veterans and the public when Vietnam. What are your thoughts on the war in general? What do you think went right and what could have been different?
- Why did you finally retire in 1984?
- We talked about your fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, briefly during our pre-interview call. Can you talk to me more about K.A.P.?
- Every fraternity has things that make it unique. What made Kappa Alpha Psi unique?

### **After the Air Force**

- After you retired in 1984 you went on to create a company that made 72 Million Dollars. How did your time in ROTC the Air Force help you create such a successful business?

- Businesses rarely succeed without challenges. Can you describe to me some of the challenges you faced?
- How did your time at Ball State and the Air Force prepare you for those challenges?
- What does it mean to you to be a successful businessman from a small Alabama town?
- You created the Aaron B. Floyd scholarship for minority students at Ball State. What is the purpose of the scholarship?
- Why create a scholarship?
- In our pre interview chat we discussed your appointment to BSU's Board of Trustees. How did you receive that appointment?
- The board of trustees is a huge honor for anyone to have. Can you describe to me your time on the board of trustees?

# Archives and Special Collections

University Libraries



Ball State University  
Bracken Library, Room 210  
Muncie, IN 47304

Phone: 765-285-5078  
FAX: 765-285-8149  
Email: [libarchives@bsu.edu](mailto:libarchives@bsu.edu)

## **Ball State University African-American Alumni Oral History Project**

Archival Identification:

Interviewer(s): Nicholas Evans

Interviewee(s): Col. Aaron B. Floyd

Videographer(s): Lauren Hendricks

Supervisor(s): Dr. Michael Doyle

Date of interview: March 27, 2017

Evans: Hello. My name is Nicholas Evans. Today is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. I am here with Retired Air Force Colonel A.B. Floyd on the Ball State campus as part of the Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History project. Before we begin I just wanted to say thank you for your time to come here and be here and thank you for your service as well.

Floyd: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Evans: So would you first tell me just when you were born and where you were born?

Floyd: I was born in 1938.

Evans: Ok.

Floyd: In Opelika, Alabama. June 15.

Evans: June 15.

Floyd: Middle of the year. Middle of the month, middle of the year.

Evans: And, would you describe your family to me? Family plays a big role in shaping the life of a person. Would you—so would you just tell me about your family?

Floyd: My—we—my family consisted of myself and seven other siblings—

Evans: Oh wow.

Floyd: And a mom and dad. And we worked—my father was a carpenter and he also, since he had

**[1:00]**

eight kids, he was also a farmer. So he knew in order to make—to get the food if he didn't have a carpenter's job he still had to feed us all. So we lived on the edge of town so we could have livestock. So we had a pig and horse and all of that stuff and gardens. So we never had a problem with that. We gave away more than we used (laughs).

Evans: What are the names of your siblings and siblings?

Floyd: Okay. My father's is Julius James Floyd Senior, and my mother is Annie Pearl Floyd. And my siblings were Julius J. Floyd Jr., my brother, Cleodolphus Floyd, Odelia Floyd, Pearl Floyd, Frankie Floyd, Odessa Floyd, Aprinell Floyd, and yours' truly, Aaron B. Floyd.

Evans: So you grew up during—at Opelika, you grew up

**[2:00]**

in the thirties, the end of the thirties, the forties and the fifties?

Floyd: Correct.

Evans: Could you describe, Opelika to me, and what was it like growing up in such a great time of change for the United States?

Floyd: Well, Opelika was a segregated town, but during that era, segregation all the black folks and all the poor people lived in the same place not particularly separated (laughs). And the other folks lived somewhere else, okay?

Evans: Um-hm.

Floyd: My—and our—I went to a segregated school. I graduated from a segregated school. And then we always wanted integration. But as I found out after—I came to Ball State directly from my high school, where I was the salutatorian in my high school. And I thought I would come up here and I thought you guys would be miles ahead of me. Not True.

Both: (Laughs)

Floyd: What I learned down there transferred. And I came up here in science. I took biology, chemistry,

**[3:00]**

physics, all that and pre-med. And I found out that I was just as good as I was down there. The good news about the segregated system was all of the people lived in the same community so the doctor, the lawyer, the carpenter, and everybody else lived together and also during that time there was not anything like—you know—people had kids out of wedlock but mostly there were whole families in that community. Everybody had a dad, mostly everybody. And if they did not the community took over and helped out. So that was good thing. So, we all pulled together. So I think that part of my success is because at my high school I could do anything. I could be—I was on the basketball team, played in the band, I was an orator like you, I—we had contests for that, and I did all—and then our cheerleaders were [unintelligible], so that the king of the prom could be a black guy. Once they integrated down South that could never happen

**[4:00]**

anymore. Realize that then you were separate and the majority folks were white folks so were you never king of the prom anymore. You were always second; where I went were always first. So I always thought I could do anything I wanted to do because at my school because I could. So I was not bashful about my—

Both: (both laugh)

Floyd: I was a pretty smart fella and I could sing and dance and all of those things but I was also very studious. And In my era our parents told us you got to get an education. You can play basketball, but you got to put it between your ears, because when you do that they can't take it. But whatever else you do, you can lose it—you can lose your ability to play, you can lose your eyesight, but you won't lose your brain unless they cut your head off.

Both: (both laugh)

Floyd: Then it won't make any difference. So that was the major thing in our neighborhood. So let me just finish, what happened was, as a result of that—now I only had thirty-four people graduate in my high school class. You know that, like seventeen of them went to college.

**[5:00]**

Because were told we had to go. Our parents told us you got to go. And they sent us to the local colleges, Tuskegee, Alabama State, but everybody tried to go to college. And, that was the way out. If you didn't go, there was not much chance of doing anything else except menial jobs in town or you could—like my father a carpenter and stuff like that. I don't think that percentage works anymore—I don't think half of the kids go to college (laughs)

Evans: You talk about your mother and your father a lot. They played a very big role in shaping your life I'm assuming?

Floyd: Absolutely.

Evans: How so?

Floyd: Well, well, they loved us all and we all—everybody in the family had chores to do and everybody in the family, they recognized who had what and who could do what things better, but we all had responsibilities and that was a good thing. They encouraged all of us and my father said that, in his—

**[6:00]**

that none of—all of his kids would finish high school. That was not the way it was in a lot of places, because down—you do not know this—but down South, black kids were taken out of high school to pick cotton in the fall. They says, it's time to pick cotton so we need people to go. and a lot of kids' parents let them go and do that. Well then that meant they lost about two months of education and when they came back they were behind. You can't catch up in math. You can catch up in history (laughs) but you couldn't catch up in math or the things that matter. So our father said, "you won't do any of that. If you need extra money I'll make the money. Me and your mom." My mom took in washing, my father built houses and whatever else. And they said, "we'll take care of that." But I had a paper route and I had several other small jobs and I worked with my dad. But that was significant that all of

**[7:00]**

his kids finished high school and three of us went to college. So...

Evans: Okay. There is an old saying "It takes a village to, to raise a child."

Floyd: Um-hm

Evans: Growing up, you had your parents. Did you also—like did the town of Opelika also raise you in a way? Like did the other people?

Floyd: The black part.

Both: (both laugh)

Floyd: Because it was segregated.

Evans: Right.

Floyd: So yes, we had the "black village" of Opelika and so we went to church, we

went—I was—my father was a Baptist and so we went to that church. But everybody helped everybody's kids. And down South, if you went by your house and there was an adult sitting in the yard and you did not speak to them and say "Good Evening, Mrs. Jones," you heard about it when you got home. Says, "Mrs. Jones said you walked by and didn't say anything to her." So I would say "Dad I saw her! I waved!" (Laughs) Never did that again. So, the community raised the kids so if you got in trouble

**[8:00]**

some adult told you to stop it. And you did not argue with them. You just stopped it. And that doesn't happen much anymore. Anyway, I don't think. People say, you leave my kid alone, that's my child. They didn't—we didn't do it that way.

Evans: Uh you mentioned—you mentioned going to church as, with your father being a Baptist.

Floyd: Um-hm

Evans: What role did the church have in shaping your—in your shaping your future and shaping your life?

Floyd: A lot. Now my father was a Baptist, but, he was a laborer and in the Baptist church where we went—I won't call names—but how much money you contributed determined where you stood in the hierarchy of the church, being deacon and all that. And so my old man made a little bit so he contributed a little bit but it was—he contributed his ten percent, there was a tithe and bit. But he didn't like it that he was second-class just because he did not make a lot of money. And so

**[9:00]**

the Church of Christ came to town. And he went to one of their revival meetings and they didn't worry about collections. Collections in the church of Christ was done on the way out the door. Nobody passed the plate but if you came and you wanted to give on the way on the way out the door you gave. And nobody made you write on an envelope how much you gave (laughs) so you couldn't know who gave what. And so he liked that idea so he started his own church in our living room (laughs) and when it first got started it was just my family and about two other families. But ultimately by the time he passed away he had grown to church to about three-hundred people and he built the church. He physically built the church. And also pastored the church.

Evans: What was the name of your father's church?

Floyd: It was the Branch Street Church of Christ?



Evans: Brant?

Floyd: Branch, B-R-A-N-C-H, Street church of Christ.

Evans: I want to go you mentioned your high school years.

**[10:00]**

Evans: What was the most important thing in High School for you?

Floyd: My studies was the most important because I was told that, again, if you put it in here they can't take. And I was gifted kid I could—because I had all these since I was a baby I had all my sisters and brothers that had gone to the same classes before me so, we had all the books at home for to study. I had them all and so I could read—they told me I could read when I was three. And so when I went to grammar school and elementary school I was—I could read everything. I was ready for the third grade. (Laughs) Because, I knew all that stuff. But they wouldn't let me go, my parents said “you need to stay in your grade because those kids are older than you. You may be smart but you got to—there's something to be said for staying with your age group.” So did not let me pass up.

**[11:00]**

Some people did. But they wouldn't let me do that. But therefore reading was the—is the major thing, being—I mean maybe now it is computers—but back then it was reading. If you could read well then you could understand everything, and so I developed a love for that. So, I read everything, the newspaper, *Reader's Digest*, all those things. I remember in *Reader's Digest* there was something that said it pays to increase your word power. And in that little article they gave you ten words a week to learn, so you used it—I used to read it, learn ten words and use them in class. They said, you're just trying to be smart!

Both: (Both Laughs)

Floyd: But it helped my vocabulary, so I found out that later on when I was taking tests to go to be an Air Force pilot or be a—go to—I took a test for medical school and passed. I took a test for law school and passed. I took a test for the Air Force and passed for piloting and navigating and everything else. So the test taking had

**[12:00]**

to do with my reading. Because there were words there that I understood cause I had been trying to read everything all my life.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: So that was the most important thing. And in school, like I said I was a striver so I was President of the class when I was a senior, I was salutatorian. I was in the science club. I really liked science, that was my favorite. I played—I was a varsity basketball player. I was the starter for four years. And I played in the band. So I had a rounded education.

Evans: What was the name of your high school?

Floyd: It was named J. W. Darden, D-A-R-D-E-N High School, and it was named for the only black doctor in town. And he had delivered most of the babies in town, and he lived—again, he lived in our neighborhood right around the corner. So we knew him and he had done a lot of good things for the Opelika community. And so when we all graduated from our high school we decided to form a Darden High

[13:00]

Alumni Association and we still have that going after all these years. And we took and rather than just having—we bought—took his home and made it a historical sight and got the government to help us with it and now it is a home for senior citizens for emergency stuff and—so they can go and get care when they can't go anywhere else in Opelika.

Evans: Okay. So, do you have a—do you have a teacher from your high schools years that you would consider to be very important to either encouraging you to pursue science or to go to Ball State? Was there a teacher that had a huge impact on your life? In high school?

Floyd: In science it was Mr. Sims, S-I-M-S. He was the chemistry teacher and I think he taught something else too. But that—he made learning science interesting and—and you liked it. So you wanted

[14:00]

to go to that class. And we had, you know, a lab for—like a video lab, not a video lab a—for taking pictures and all of that. All that fellow—he created that as well.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: And, and for English and all of that was Mrs., let me get the name again, Anesworth. Mrs. Anesworth was, was a teacher that taught history and English and she was also a black lady who went to Talladega College and came back to Opelika and everybody—you loved to go to her class, she taught you—we learned all the classics and, we learned *Beowulf* and all of that stuff. And so we loved that class. It was history and classics and all of that. So those two things; science and history.

Evans: So you came to Ball State University, then Ball State Teachers College—

**[15:00]**

Floyd: Yup. (Laughs) That is what it was.

Evans: And you joined—you are part of the Air Force, R.O.T.C. [Reserve Officer Training Corps] program?

Floyd: Um-hm. Let me tell you what happened was I was here accidentally because I have a sister that lived in Muncie, Indiana and she was here with her husband they had three kids and he died of a heart attack the summer I graduated from high school. So she was here alone and she asked me to just to come up and stay with her until she got—cause she at that time was not working. So I came and stayed with her and her husband had a job cleaning—he was an Atlanta Life insurance salesman, but you do not make a bunch of money doing that. So he had to have another job, everybody (laughs) in my era everybody had to have two jobs. (laughs) And so once he—he had a job cleaning office buildings downtown so when I came up here I took his job and cleaned the buildings and gave her the money. And I stayed with her until she got another job—she was a seamstress.

**[16:00]**

And later on she remarried, and then—but I went to Ball State. And Ball State at that time had been a land-grant college; R.O.T.C. was mandatory for the first two years. And it just so happened that Air Force R.O.T.C. was the one they had on campus. So it wasn't if you wanted to be in it, you had to be in it if you were an able-bodied male and didn't have a physical infirmity. So that is why I was in it. I liked it, and did well in it. And ended up after four years I was the Deputy Commander of all these folks (laughs) of the whole cadet corps.

Evans: I want to go back to right as you came to Ball State. You came up to Muncie to help your sister?

Floyd: Um-hm.

Evans: Why—What encouraged you to—I mean, your family encouraged you to get a college education so was Ball State your choice because it was the closest university?

Floyd: No. I was going to go to Tuskegee, Alabama. Tuskegee institute and that was twenty-eight miles from my house.

**[17:00]**

I didn't really want to go to Tuskegee, because I wanted to get out of the south.

(Laughs) Up North was like the Promised Land back then. Segregation was a bad deal. You know, they did not beat you up everyday but you were always were second-class. You knew it. Okay? And I did not want to do that and so I was looking for an opportunity to go somewhere else and this opportunity showed up. So I was glad to come here and, boy you won't believe it, but I think my tuition was fifty dollars a quarter. (Laughs) Yup. You still on the quarter system? Are you semester system now?

Evans: Semester.

Floyd: Yup. So it was affordable.

Evans: You—you mentioned you wanted to go to Tuskegee Institute. The history of the Tuskegee Airmen trained there—

Floyd: Um-hm.

Evans: To become pilots and they served nobly in World War two.

Floyd: Um-hm.

Evans: Did they—was that—were they heroes to you growing up?

Floyd: Absou—they were not heroes at the time,

**[18:00]**

but I knew them. That's one of the reasons I wanted to be a pilot. Believe it or not, I lived in in Opelika and that's only twenty-eight miles from Tuskegee and so that's on the flight path for them to go back and land. They came by our house all the time. So all the first pilots I met were black men. I never never(??) met a white pilot. I met black folks. And my—I was born in 1938 so when they were there going through training, I did not get to see them personally. But when—after the war they sent them all back to Tuskegee because the services were not integrated. They couldn't go anywhere else. There was no other place for black pilots to go except back to Tuskegee. And President Truman integrated the service in 1947 and then they could go somewhere else. He integrates the services and formed the Air Force as a separate, not segregated service. Now let me digress a bit, my father was in World War 1.

Evans: Oh.

Floyd: My brothers were both in World War 2. One was in the Army and one was in the Navy.

**[19:00]**

So we've had—that in our family everybody got a flag. So I always wanted to be in the service anyway, cause my father, cause my kids, my brothers, went in and I thought that was—they were neat. They would come home and we would practice saluting and they'd teach me how to march. So, you know, for a kid—gave me a bayonet

Both: (Both laugh)

Floyd: Which my mother took from me!

Both (Laughs)

Floyd: So—but that part, always wanted to do. Well as it turned out, later on in life I actually commanded the R.O.T.C. detachment at Tuskegee. And when I was there the gentleman who taught all those folks how to fly was named Chief Alfred Anderson and he was still there. When I came to Tuskegee and he was seventy-two and he was still flying airplanes and teaching kids how to fly airplanes. He was my instructor for my students in 1977 and '78. Now, you don't know

**[20:00]**

about Chief Anderson but to get the—the Tuskegee flying program started—the Army put out a—a regulation that black people could not fly because they weren't smart enough. That was in the Army regs [regulations]. So, so that was resistance to having black flyers anywhere and so Eleanor Roosevelt, who was the first liberal person, she came down to Tuskegee who had a flying program, but it wasn't sponsored by the military, to see if—she didn't tell her husband—to see if black people could fly. And so Chief Alfred Anderson took her up on her flight with a black person at Tuskegee and flew around—and I have the picture in my catalog—and when she landed she called Franklin and said, “I have just been up with a black pilot and we didn't crash!” (laughs) So I guess—and they have a good flying program down here—and within eight months they started the program. They got the money and they started the program at Tuskegee. So, all the

**[21:00]**

black pilots trained at Tuskegee. And then when they went overseas, they couldn't integrate with the Army—with the rest of the services. They had their own bases in Ramitelli, Italy and all of that. And they—but they escorted the white pilots in the B-29s on those missions into Germany, where the black pilots flew top cover. Which means that—so they're here to make sure they don't get shot down by airplanes. They try to get out of the way of the ack-ack, the anti-aircraft. But the big people that got them were the airplanes. So when they came into target—once

you make a target run you have to stay online no matter what happens you stay in formation cause your bombs have drop here. You can't be evading so that's when they lost people. And then the Germans would come in when they knew they were on final for target and just pick them off. But we—the Tuskegee airmen saved them because they never left them. There are

**[22:00]**

some of the other pilots who were escorting them would go off to kill another Nazi in an airplane to get a kill. The black pilots never did that they stayed and kept them away. They wouldn't come as long as those guys stayed up. They would come up and come through the formation to try to draw them—the fighter pilots away from the group. They didn't do it. So in two years of combat they never lost a bomber to aircraft. They lost some to the other, but not the aircraft. And so at—in during the first part of the war—I am telling you all this because when I got down there, I didn't know all of this history, either. I just knew they flew there. But once I talked to Chief Anderson—he told me all the history, so I said, “Well, you know, people need to know your history.” And he says, “Well Colonel Carter, who was also at Tuskegee, was the dean of students,” he said, “he was one of the first guys we graduated.” I said “You know him, too?” He said “Yup.” So, I took Colonel Carter and Chief Anderson and we created a Tuskegee Airmen

**[23:00]**

Briefing Team. And we went to—to the Air Force Academy and to the—there is a school at Montgomery Alabama called Squadron Officer School, where all the young people that are captain and above have to—all of our schools are there. Commanding Staff and Air War College is all at one place: Montgomery Alabama. So I had a friend out there and he knew I was running this program and he says, “Why don't you come down here? I can get you guys to give a presentation.” So we went down there and all of these folks saw us for the first time and I said—pointed out who these gentleman were. That they had fought and World War 2 and this guy taught them all how to fly. So they got n—then all these pilots and people from the Air Force went back to their bases and said, “We want these guys to come to our base because they don't know that black people flew airplanes in World War 2.” So the Air Force then put me, Colonel Carter, and Chief Anderson on a plane in three years—every year during Black History Week and we flew around the world and gave that presentation.

**[24:00]**

So that first years we went in the United States to all the bases. Second year we went to Europe to all the bases, air bases and Army posts. And then the third year we went to Asia. And then we came back and we made that, the Tuskegee Airmen Briefing Team and then other people—there were a lot, there were three-hundred



other airmen that had flown, so they said, “Let us make this a part of whole organization.” So now there is a Tuskegee Airmen Briefing Team that goes out and briefs every year. Now they are running out of Tuskegee Airmen (laughs) because they are ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven years old. But that’s—that’s how I knew all of that history. I had the—I read up on it and these guys told me all about it. Then once I started to investigate it I found out the Air Force—the Air Force had a film already made, in color, of Chief Anderson telling this story at Tuskegee. I said, “Who has seen this?” They said, “we put it out and nobody asked for it.” I said,

[25:00]

“That’s not the way you are supposed to do this.” So then I told everybody, and I used that film because I would say, “guy who taught all of these guys, the little guy sitting on the corner,” he would wave and I’d say, “If you don’t believe me, I got a picture.” And so we would show the film. There he is! (laughs) And the others guy’s flying their airplanes in combat. So the Air Force had done their job, but they had not done a job publicizing it, so we did all that. That is one of my proudest moments. So, one more thing with that story, Chief—I was—I flew with Chief Anderson with my—I took flying lessons with him—I didn’t get to be a pilot in the Air Force I ended up as an intelligence officer, but Chief Anderson—I went down and took flying lessons with him with my students. And we flew up over Opelika he said, “You know, I taught a guy up here how to fly.” I said, “who?” He said “Stick.” I said “I know Stick.” Stick was a man in Opelika who was like a gambler and he went to all of the concessions in East Alabama

[26:00]

for all for the machines that played the records. They were called Juke Boxes. Well, at every club, they had one. And so Chief Anderson, I mean, Stick had to collect his quarters and dimes from all those clubs, and he left it there too long people would take the money out of the machines. So he was collecting all over East Alabama by car. So he was constantly on the road getting this money, but he was making a lot of money. He made enough money to buy an airplane, and Chief—Chief Anderson taught him how to fly. And he—when I lived out there on the edge of town I told you—that’s where the runway was. So I got to fly an airplane with a black pilot when I was nine.

Evans: Oh wow.

Floyd: (Laughs)

Floyd: So then, full circle, I found out Chief Anderson taught him as well as everybody else in Alabama how to fly airplanes. All of the black folks.

Evans: Before we go into your time on Ball State, I just want to ask you—you mentioned

that you got to fly when you were nine. What—what was that like to

**[27:00]**

be—as a nine year old to be able to—to go and fly?

Floyd: It was great. It was great. You know when you are nine, you have no fear right? Anyway, if you crash you don't even think that is going to happen. I never heard of anybody crashing. So he would just take us up. He was going around and he said, "You want a ride?" And he was right above my house and when I heard his plane I would run up on the hill and he would say, "You want a ride?" Okay so we would get in, and we would fly around and he would let me pull the stick and stuff. And it was fun and I said, "I would love to do this." So I was going to join R.O.T.C. and be a pilot anywhere it just so happened that—that, Ball State had an R.O.T.C. program—an Air Force R.O.T.C. Program.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Okay.

Evans: So when you came to Ball State in 1956 as part of the R.O.T.C. what—could you describe the campus to me at that time? What was it like?

Floyd: It was a small campus at the time I think it was 5000 students or less and the student—

**[28:00]**

the Pittenger Student Center was there. And the science building and these buildings right here in the quad were there and there were dorms. But there weren't a lot—it wasn't that big at the time. Oh and Ball State—Ball Memorial Hospital was there. That is where I worked my through college. I was an orderly down there and I did floors down there for three years. So, that is how I worked my way through school. So all of that was there. It was a nice campus. It was—everybody was friendly, and it was a nice place. But my social life was made through my fraternity. And in my case for—again—there was only like only two-hundred black kids campus out of all the kids on campus and so we socialized with our fraternities and sororities. So it was like you had to join to have a social life. So I joined the Kappa Alpha Psi, and they recruited me for my grade point average.

Both: (both laugh)

Floyd: So (laugh) I told my friends there's another,

**[29:00]**

there's another fraternity called, Omega Psi Phi and they're—at they're at all the campuses, at all of the black schools these fraternities—there is Alpha Phi Alpha, that's first black fraternity, then there's Omega Psi Phi, that's the—no, there's Kappa Alpha Psi, we're the second, Omega Psi Phi is the third. So—and all of the campuses all of the twenty—I think there are thirty-nine negro colleges—no there's more than that, like 105—but of the United Negro College Fund there are thirty-nine of them. And these—all of these colleges have fraternities and sororities cause that is how the black kids stayed together and it was really important on a white campus. Because I couldn't join the Sig Eps [Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity] (chuckles). Okay. Whatever else they had here, they were nice. They were in my R.O.T.C. Units and all that but they never tried to get me to come join their fraternity.

Evans: What, with Kappa Alpha Psi—

**[30:00]**

fraternities have things that make them unique from other fraternities. What made Kappa Alpha Psi unique from Omega Psi—Omega Psi Phi?

Floyd: In one thing, the Kappas at Indiana University. So Indiana and Ohio is big for Kappas, cause IU is our alpha chapter. The other schools were formed at other places so they are bigger at those places. So that's why, that's why—the first thing about it was there were lots of Kappas on campus, two alphas and three omegas and fifty Kappas so that was the main reason. If you ever—if it had been another campus I would have joined whichever one it was. The Q's are—they excel—those guys are great athletes. If you watched all the football, the National Football League and all the teams all the guys with the U on their arm like this, maybe you have seen them? They have a horseshoe?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: Branding on their arm? Those are Q's.

**[31:00]**

Evans: Q, Just to clarify—

Floyd: Q is Psi Phi, right.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: (Laughs) Omega.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: That is what that is.

Evans: Did—

Floyd: We—we—here, we don't—we didn't brand. We thought, that's—they branded slaves, we don't want to be branded so we don't do that. But they do that, so that's why I wouldn't be a Q.

Evans: Does Kappa Alpha Psi have, like, specific words that that are representative of the values of the fraternity?

Floyd: Um-hm. Yes we do and I want to get it right. It's integrity, fraternity, and those, those are the words but I—and it is in our motto Phi Nu Pi. That is the when we cross over we have to learn all that stuff and it is encoded in our motto call,

**[32:00]**

“Phi Nu Pi.” But I can't articulate it all, but it's fraternity, treating your fellow man, equality, all of those things.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: And a lot of Kappas are businessmen. That's, you know—a lot of Alphas are doctors and lawyers. Because their daddies were. They went to Howard University first—that was the first black school and—that had a medical department. So kids that went those schools and all their fathers were doctors and lawyers. People that went to Tuskegee, their fathers were engineers because we didn't have at Tuskegee a medical school or law school. There are only—there are not a lot of black colleges that have all of that. Just a few of them.

Evans: I think it's interesting you mentioned that each fraternity kind of had their own route in terms of what graduates would become. Kappa

**[33:00]**

being businessmen, Omega being athletes, Alpha being lawyers and doctors. What is—

Floyd: Now none of that is exclusive now. But—

Evans: Right.

Floyd: Okay.

Evans: What—what—what was the—was that just because of, like, the majors that like these students were a part of? Or was there something else—?

Floyd: I think, like, their fathers were Alphas and they were doctors at Howard.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: So they weren't doctors at Tuskegee, so the people at Tuskegee joined the fraternities for engineers cause they had an engineering school. So then, a lot—a lot of Kappas were engineers and like that. So I think it started there. My son in law at one—both—one son in law is an engineer, one son in law is a lawyer. They are both Alphas, so.

Evans: Could you describe to me your average day of being on campus? Like what—go—could you go through your routine on campus every day?

**[34:00]**

Floyd: Yeah. Now, since I lived off campus with my sister, I came to campus for school and so I would, you know, I'd ride the bus, or my friends and—a couple of guys had cars and if I could—if I missed the car ride then (laughs) I had to catch the bus. But one of my friends who I'm going to see, Sam Abrams, he went here with me—he got an EdD [Doctor of Education] in education and he's been a superintendent in several schools in—in Indiana and in Michigan, so he had a car. So he lived near me, so I rode with him whenever I could. We would get here in time for our eight o' clock—first we tried to get a class at nine (laughs) but if you couldn't you had to get here at eight o' clock and we'd go to class for about a couple hours. Then we'd all go back to the student union, that was the hangout and have lunch and talk and all of that. And I took a lot

**[35:00]**

of classes in the science building because I was in physics and chemistry so I was close by. And then you'd hang out over there for an hour between classes, get something to eat then go back for the afternoon classes, and in my case then I had to go to work. So, I went to work at the hospital at—got a job at Ball Memorial as a janitor, so I worked. The first year that I had the job the only time I could work was eleven to seven. Eleven at night to seven in the morning, so that—(laughs) that made it hard to study cause I tried it, you know, and I would be falling asleep in physics class and they would say, Mr. Floyd you made an A last semester, you're going to have to work this semester because you're not—you're falling asleep. Is something going on? I said "Yeah, I'm working" They said, well, we'll let—basically, they say, we'll let you get a C this semester, but don't do that next semester. If you can do something take another class, put it in the afternoon or something. So I decided that—

[36:00]

I asked—I was a good worker, so I told the folks—they knew I was in college and I said, “listen, I want to be on another shift.” Well, the janitors just work that shift, the eleven to seven, cause the hospitals close down you can do all the floors without traffic. But I said, “can I be an orderly?” They said, well yeah. So I had talked to one of the ladies out there and I became an orderly and then I worked three to eleven. Which was much better because I could go home and sleep at night. And my grades went back up. (laughs)

Evans: To—I want to talk about your time with R.O.T.C. And before we get into that I have here—I pulled this from the—Ball State Records and this is kind like a syllabus. This was a list of courses and instructions that were taken.

Floyd: Um-hm. Um-hm.

Evans: And this was implemented in 1958. Could you tell me, like, about some of these classes that you see here or the instructions that were provided?

[37:00]

Floyd: Yeah, this—R.O.T.C. was really a diamond in the rough, because if you didn’t know what you were doing, this added foundation. You knew what you were going to do. And so—Fundamentals of Air Power—they just told you about the Air Force and how it came to be and Billy Martin and all of those folks that started flying and the Army Air Corps and then the Air Force. And, then they talked to you about the vehicles and how flying is done how—when you fly—cause the big old thing weighs five-thousand pounds how the heck does it get airborne? Well there’s lift being created by the weight of the wings of the plane. And so the engines push you forward and the wings—the air flows over the wings and gives lift from underneath. And that is how it stays up. That is why when the—when the engine quit it goes down.

Both (laughs)

Floyd: Doesn’t glide much. (laughs) And all the glider airplane, if you hadn’t noticed—they got long narrow wings and it is all lift.

[38:00]

Once it gets airborne, it can just float because it doesn’t require power. The wings are fixed so that they would—the airflow goes over and it stays up and it’s like weight. So—but we started all those things then we started national security, what the military—what the departments are. Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, and the Department of the Army and we learned all of that stuff. And then we visited bases, cause they wanted us to be in there, in the Air Force,



so they took us to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base close by here. And let us see what they do—Took us to a fighter base, I think we went to Bunker Hill. It's now called Grissom, cause [Gus] Grissom got killed, remember?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: As an astronaut. And we went down there and there's political stuff in here. It made—it made some of the things that were going on in the world meaningful to us to take these courses. Being taught by men in the Air Force, only men,

**[39:00]**

at that time, in the Air Force, who'd to been to some of these places and involved after these things right after World War II. So it was worthwhile very, very good. And I never missed a class and the other thing was (laughs) when you're a junior you get paid (laughs) to go to class. So you didn't miss a class because it cost you money on your little paycheck. You got a paycheck every semester. Not much, if you—if some people on a scholarship, the Air Force paid for everything, but the rest of us, we got a little stipend, but you had to go to class to get your stipend. So you know—and back then, fifty dollars was fifty dollars. (laughs) So you'd say, "well, I've got a cold, but I'm going into that class and then I'm going to go home and back to bed!" (laughs) Yeah, so it was worthwhile.

Evans: In 1958, Dean Burkhardt, who was the Dean of Ball State at the time, was concerned about the R.O.T.C. coursework

**[40:00]**

because they had—because obviously you're taking your R.O.T.C. classes and then you're also taking other classes. I mean you mentioned your physics and sciences—

Floyd: Right.

Evans: Did you feel like as though you had more—that you had a heavy workload, or did you feel like that was about normal considering what you were doing?

Floyd: I thought it was about normal. I enjoyed those classes because they had practical applications. They told you about air flight and then you went out and saw an airplane. You know?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: And that was important. Sometimes, some of things, as you know, in academics, some of it's just academics. You don't get to envision it. So I think, I think all of the guys in R.O.T.C. liked that. And, let me say again, for freshman and

sophomores you had to be in. For juniors and seniors you had to pass the test to go to the upper division. A whole bunch of people either didn't take the test, because they didn't want to be in R.O.T.C., but they had to in the first two years, or they didn't pass the test. Of all my buddies that I hung around with, only two of the black guys passed the test.

**[41:00]**

Me and Gene Tumpkins. Gene Tumpkins went to Muncie Central. He was a smart guy. I went to J. W. Darden and I was a smart guy and we both passed the test. None of the other black kids passed the test. Go figure, I don't understand it, but they didn't. So he and I went into to upper division and we both graduated and we were commissioned.

Evans: Okay. Who on—with your time in R.O.T.C. was there a particular instructor that played a huge role in determining where you would go? In terms of, like, whether or not you were going to fly or be in intelligence as what—where you went.

Floyd: The flying thing was a real disappointment to me because when I took all the tests—you have to take the tests for a pilot and navigator—and I passed them with flying colors. I think I was the third ranked guy, maybe a physics major made higher than I did that but, I doubt it. (Laughs) But as it happens, this was 1958. When they—and the flight instruction,

**[42:00]**

called FIP [Flight Indoctrination Program], was done at the local airport here. And they wouldn't fly me. I didn't know that at the time, they wouldn't fly the black guy. I didn't know that at the time. They just told me—the R.O.T.C. didn't tell me that either. They just told me, "well we only had twelve quarters and you are number thirteen. Now I knew that couldn't be true, I knew all the guys I was smarter than and I was Corps Commander. I was number two in the corps. I knew I was good. But I didn't know—but I didn't know any better, I didn't—that's what they told me. And they said, well, when you go on active duty, you can go to flight school with these same scores. You can go to your first base and go to flight school. I said, "okay." That didn't work out. When I went to my first base and I said, "I'm here to go to flight school." They said, this is not a flight—(laughs) They sent me to California to a fighter pilot base. I thought I would go to California to a fighter pilot base and became a fighter pilot. They said—George Air Force Base in California—and they said, no. You have to go to flight school at one of the flying school

**[43:00]**

bases and you do have orders to that. You have orders here. I said, "well, okay. I want to go there". They said, you can't go for one year because there's something

called (laughs) permanent change of station. PCS. You have to be in one place at twelve months before they'll send you someplace else because of the money. Once they ship you here you just can't just get up ship somewhere else. You have to stay at least twelve months. While I was waiting to be doing all of that, they needed a guy in—in intelligence to take—to get a security clearance and since I had a clean background I got a clearance. And because I had a clearance they had an assignment open up in Taipei, Taiwan and so they shipped me there. So I never got to go to flight school. When I came back from Taipei, Taiwan I was two months too old to go to flight school. It is twenty-six. My wife is happy, don't worry about it.

Both: (Laugh)

Floyd: She said, "You didn't need to fly airplanes anyway." But that's the reason that I am in intelligence

**[44:00]**

because I said at that time I was doing very well in the Air Force and getting promoted. But I now wasn't going to be a pilot and so one of the pilots told me, "listen, why don't you"—well, the guy who told me was Daniel "Chappie" James the first black four-star [general]. When I came back from Taipei, Taiwan he was the Vice Commander of a wing flying Air Force in Tucson, Arizona. That's where I was assigned. And I thought, "I am going to go down here and I'm going to go to flight school." And I couldn't get in. Because—even went back and redid the tests and couldn't get in. So then they said—cause of the age, and they offered me an assignment to go fly Army Helicopters and General James, at that time Colonel James, said, "Don't do it. The life of a helicopter pilot in the Army is five minutes." (Laughs) "You're going to get killed. They shoot down helicopters all the time. They don't care where you came from."

**[45:00]**

"So if you are lucky enough to survive don't do that. You got a wife and two kids, you don't need to do that." So, didn't do it.

Evans: Just to clarify, before we go back to R.O.T.C. when you say "they," are you referring to the Vietcong, or...?

Floyd: Oh, you mean shooting you down?

Evans: Yeah.

Floyd: Yeah that was the Vietnam, right.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: The Vietnam Era.

Evans: So—

Floyd: Oh, and back to the Air—so the people at the airport, not Air Force people, didn't fly me. And then when I—I met the wing commander that was—when I was here, his name was Bob Swing. And I was—he was number one and I was number two. And he went to flying school. He didn't want to go to flying school, but he had a slot and I didn't have a slot. So I met him later on in the Air Force and he was a policeman.

**[46:00]**

Floyd: And I said, “Bob where are your wings?” I met him at Offutt Air Force Base where we were both assigned. He says, “Well I went to be—I SIE'd [Self-Initiated Elimination] out of school.” A self-eliminating out of flight school. I said, “you took my slot.” He said, “man you didn't know that you didn't have a slot because of what happened? The Air Force wanted you to fly but the people at the airport didn't want you to fly.” I said, “now you tell me.” (Laughs) He said he thought I knew. I had no idea. But that's the way it was. So—but the good news—I am one of these guys—good news, bad news guys. When I didn't go, then I went to intelligence training and because I was doing all of the stuff with math and science, they said, you made a great score on the computer block of intelligence and you need to be in data systems because we don't a lot of guys in that. And I said, “No, I don't want to do that.” I still said, “I want to fly in the backseat of airplanes!” (Laughs) And dive into the ground at 180 knots and kill myself.

**[47:00]**

Floyd: They says, you don't want to do that. We need smart guys to run computer centers. I said, “I don't know anything about computers” They said, you're mastering this stuff we got out here. We can send you to school. So they sent me to school and I took Fortran and Cobalt and at Offutt Air Force Base and then I became a computer guy with all of these clearances and for the rest of my military career, I ran data centers in intelligence for the Air Force. And when I left the Air Force, I started my own business and ran data centers for the Air Force. All worked out.

Evans: Just to briefly go back to R.O.T.C. I came across a clipping from your yearbook.

Floyd: Okay.

Evans: The—the R.O.T.C. yearbook from I think it was 19—

Floyd: Sixty? Oh.

Evans: Nineteen sixty—

Floyd: Oh. Earlier than that?

Evans: Well, it was a large compilation of all of the yearbooks.

Floyd: Right.

Evans: And I came across a clipping that mentioned you attended the first A.R.O.T.C. [Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps] Cadet Party.

**[48:00]**

And you received an award on behalf of Flight S.

Floyd: Right.

Evans: Can you describe the night to me as best you can? Winning the—

Floyd: (Laughs) Yeah. Yeah. What, what Flight S—that was my flight that I commanded. And we won the drill team competition. Okay. And I was talking about have a big voice.

Evans: (laughs)

Floyd: You know, what you're able to do is you have guys in first column, second columns. And you can—if you're good—you got a big voice you say, "First, first column, hip! Hoor!" That mean reverse, "second column, Hip!" And they could—I could march them all the way down the field and then say, "All column, hip! Hoor!" And all return and they all come back together. And I'd be at the other end of the field. Nobody else could do that. (Laughs) It was a voice thing, so. And so we won that and so me that group then received an award for that. We also did a skit. I think and we won something for that too. We were a really a good—bunch of good little guys.

**[49:00]**

Evans: What was the skit? Do you remember?

Floyd: Yeah. (laughs) it was—it was Marshall Dillon. I was Marshall Dillon and my commander was Chester. Do you remember that show? You do not remember that show, "Gunsmoke".

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Way back then.

Evans: So the skit was like a parody of “Gunsmoke”?

Floyd: Um-hm.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Marshall Dillon was a big strong guy and Chester was his deputy, but he had a limp. So he had to limp around and we made jokes about all of that.

Evans: What was the—what was the night like? You know, winning—winning this award, receiving it performing the skits. What—what was that like?

Floyd: It was a big night for us because it was R.O.T.C., everybody was there, and we beat out the other guys. We won the drill team competition and the skit, so...

Evans: You—you were—and then when you graduated in 1959—

Floyd: Sixty.

Evans: Oh 1960. Okay. You were given the honor

**[50:00]**

of being a military aide for your commencement, according to the pamphlet that I saw in the archival records.

Floyd: Right.

Evans: Can you describe what your emo—what your emotions were like during your commencement?

Floyd: Well we had—we wore our uniforms to the commencement and everybody else had on there—we marched in a gown, but we also had to wear our uniforms and I had a little fourragère on my shoulder and all that it was—we thought it was big time. When you got commissioned—we looked spiffy so it was neat. I remember (laughs) I remember when I worked at the hospital, everybody knew I was in the R.O.T.C. but they had never seen me in uniform so when I was going to get my degree I had on a brown shirt, right underneath cause that was the uniform—in my gown over it. And one of the ladies said—and when I took it off she was very happy cause I had a uniform. She said, “I thought you didn’t have enough money to buy a shirt.” (Laughs)



[51:00]

Evans: Um, so is—with the—when you joined the Air Force you were assigned out to California, and then—

Floyd: Yup. George Air Force Base.

Evans: And then you were sent over to Taiwan?

Floyd: Taiwan.

Evans: Were there other places that you were sent out to with you time in the Air Force? Other stations overseas?

Floyd: Yeah I went everywhere. I went to Taiwan, came back to Davis a month—and that's Tucson, Arizona to the—the 44<sup>th</sup>-53<sup>rd</sup> combat crew training wing. At that time all the Air Force pilots were transitioning from, their air—101s and 104s and all that—to the F-4, which was the Navy's airplane and that was the platform that everybody flew into combat. It was more sturdy and it could take a hit longer and keep on flying and it could carry more bombs further. So everybody had to come there, all the Air Force guys had to come there. And that meant all the fighter pilots in the Air Force, including the

[52:00]

black ones, came there, so I met them all. All the ones flew—flew—flown in World War 2 and right after they came to Tucson, Arizona, so I get to meet Chappie James and all those guys that I'd heard about but hadn't met. And so then all of them transitioned to the new airplane and then they went to fly in Vietnam in that new airplane. And then I went to Thailand to run a special missions thing and—in Nakhon Phanom(??), Thailand, which was, well that's a secret mission so I can't—(laughs). I could tell you, but I'd have to shoot you (laughs). So I spent a year doing that. And the other pilots went to—there were Air Force pilots also, same ones I flew with—were in U-Tapao, Thailand and other air bases. Because being in Vietnam with a fighter plane was a dangerous business, they'd blow your

[53:00]

base up at night. So all the flying came out of Thailand. All the fighter planes were in Thailand, and they flew into Vietnam and returned to Thailand. And I was also in Thailand.

Evans: Did you—your graduating class—were most of them deployed to Vietnam?

Floyd: I would imagine that most of them that stayed in did at some point. Cause the war heated up and if you stayed in, you know? In my particular instance, you don't

know this about R.O.T.C., but it's the Reserve Officer Training Corp, R-O-T-C. That's what it stands for, and so you're a reserve officer. So that means you have a date of separation that's three years down the stream. So when you graduate, you're going to be out by this date. It's already set, and you can't stay longer than that even if you want to. In my particular instance you, okay?

**[54:00]**

In my particular instance when I was in Taiwan, I was selected to be a regular officer, which means I don't have a date of separation. I can stay in forever. And this didn't happen because of anything I did. Well, I guess because I was doing good work, but when I went to Taiwan it was a joint command and in the military, a joint command is a big deal, but you normally don't get it until you're a senior officer. I got it when I was a lieutenant. So I served for a Navy three-star [admiral]. I ran his top-secret facility as a lieutenant. And because of all that, I got good performance for him and I had good performance and a joint service and clearances. And so they offered me to be a regular officer. And I didn't know how good that was. I just thought, "Well I don't want to be a regular officer, cause I'm going to get out and go to medical school." (laughs) So this Admiral said, "Son, come talk to me." So I went up and he says, "You realize they have a whole bunch of Navy officers here

**[55:00]**

who would give their leg to get a regular commission in the Navy. And you're about to turn it down?" And I said, "Yeah, because that means I cannot get out and go to medical school." He says, "You can get out anytime you want, you just have to resign. But if you decide not to go to medical school, you can stay in the Air Force and you can probably stay thirty years if you want—and you can stay thirty years if you want to. And that's where they make the colonels. If you just stay twenty, you'll never make full colonel. Lieutenant Colonel is as far as you'll get. And so they don't consider you for General Officer. General Officers are made after Colonel, and so you have to make General. So you have the chance to be a General if you stay and you keep doing good work." So I said, "I'll take that under advisement, sir." (laughs) So, I stayed, but that was a big deal because from that time on in the Air Force every time assignments came up, I went to the top of the stack, because I was regular and they could give me an assignment, knowing I would be around. And so I got assignments and promotions after that.

**[56:00]**

But I didn't control that, it just happened to me. The fact that I was there and didn't go to flying school was the reason I was over there going to the joint command, and it worked out to my—to my advantage.

Evans: Just to clarify, the three-star was a Admiral?

Floyd: Admiral Melson, M-E-L-S-O-N, I remember.

Evans: Does the three-star—is the three star Vice Admiral or do you remember?

Floyd: Yeah. It's Rear Admiral—no it is commodore, Rear Admiral, Vice Admiral, Admiral.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Um-hm. Commodore is the one-star. The only make those in the Navy during war time. Two stars is a rear admiral and they have two divisions an upper and lower. The Rear Admiral First Classes are one star. Rear Admiral Second Class is the two stars. And they both are—they both wear two stars, but one is upper half and one is lower half so the Navy used to send their Rear Admirals

**[57:00]**

upper class with two stars to meetings when they really were—they only had one star. But on their shoulders it was upper half so you got to wear the two stars until you got it. We used to hate it when they did that.

Both: (Laugh)

Floyd: We would say, "He's not a real two star. He's only a one star." They would say, "Nope he's first half. Second half."

Evans: (laughs)

Floyd: So that's the way that's done.

Evans: Okay. You—you mentioned, as you were rising through the ranks, that you were given—that you were at the top of the stack for promotions and assignments. What other—what were some of the assignments?

Floyd: When I came back from Thailand—I mean from Thailand and didn't get to go to medical school, I came—I went—actually, "Chappie" James had me fly to Bunker Hill Air Force base and he had somebody fly me up here for my interview. And I went down there and interviewed and I had pretty good grades, not great, but good enough, that they gave me an interview and they said,

**[58:00]**

you know, we'd like for you to go here. How are you going to pay your way? I said, "Oh, I got that covered. I have ten thousand dollars saved." (laughs) They

said, son, that—first semester, that will be gone.” (laughs) Ten thousand dollars to medical school that’s no money, right? Even back then. And they said—I said, “well, I can work, because I worked my way through college.” And they said, can’t work your way through medical school. We’re going to take all of your time and then some from the day you step on here. You’ll be at a hospital and in class all the time for four years. So they said—they said, We would like to take you, but unless you can—anybody in your family got any of the money? I said, “No. They get money from me!” (Laughs). Nope. So I didn’t get to go to medical school. So, then I decided I wanted to go to law school cause I passed the test right?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: So (laughs) so I—I asked for an R.O.T.C. assignment to teach at a place that had a law school.

**[59:00]**

And there was a vacancy at Creighton University. And Universe—the vacancy was at the University of Omaha. University of Nebraska at Omaha. And it was downtown and Creighton University was the law school downtown, so for three years—I got accepted, I went to Creighton University, but when you go to law school you have be—you have to study all the time. You can’t go part time. You can either go at night when everybody is going. They didn’t have a night law school. And if you go during the day then you’re going to have a study group because they—I didn’t realize all that. You’re going to a study group, they give you something. They would say, A.B. you got this and you got to do all the research on that and bring it back. And then we all—then they would bring other things and that’s how you get by in law school. You can’t do it by yourself. And so I couldn’t join a study group. I was in them but I couldn’t contribute, cause I had to go back and teach at the other place! (laughs) So after three or four years I decided—well—and so, while I was waiting to get—

**[1:00:00]**

And I thought the Air Force would send me to law school. Turns out what happened was I got promoted to major early (laughs). You can only go to law school with the Air Force if you’re a Captain (laughs). So I got promoted out of my opportunity to go to law school but then I went to intelligence school and everything changed after that.

Evans: Before we go into intelligence school, can you describe to me how you met your wife and all that?

Floyd: Yeah, I met my wife here at Ball State.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Okay. When I first came here, I was like seventeen or eighteen and I—during my freshman year there was a N.A.A.C.P. [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People] meeting here in the Pittenger Center and she was a high school student, a senior in high school, and she came to the meeting and I met her there and we fell madly in love (laughs).

Evans: Aww.

Floyd: And about a couple of years later we got married.

**[1:01:00]**

And so I met her here at Ball State.

Evans: What—

Floyd: We're still married.

Evans: What's her name?

Floyd: Ladon, L-A-D-O-N.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: And her father received an Ed.D here from Ball State and her sister as well.

Evans: So her family has a history—

Floyd: History with Ball State.

Evans: Okay. Do you have any kids?

Floyd: I have three girls. And—three daughters. I told you I created a business, when I—both of them went to Spellman College in Atlanta. And then one of them—we had to bring her back to D.C. She was—too much partying and not enough school! (Laughs) So, she went to Howard and she graduated from Howard University in D.C. But when they were—when I was starting my business—after I retired and started my own company, I was lucky enough to win some contracts and hired both of my daughters to come back and work for me.

**[1:02:00]**

The oldest daughter was—did business in college and banking, so she became my—contracts, my finance person and accounting person. And my second



daughter became everything in the company except that, because she didn't do math well. But she did security for me, she did administration for me, and then she did contract marketing for me. And the second daughter ended up—after I retired and sold my company, we created a company for her. So now she has a company that does software engineering kinds of work for all the Department of Defense. She got thirty million dollar company. I'm on her Board of Directors and so I keep my hand in.

Evans: What are the names of your three daughters?

Floyd: Angela is the oldest.

**[1:03:00]**

Floyd: And Candace is the middle, C-A-N-D-A-C-E. And Cecelia is the baby. Cecelia is a teacher in Alabama.

Evans: And then, just to clarify, what is the name of Candace's company?

Floyd: Convergent Solutions

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Incorporated.

Evans: And what was the name of the company that you—

Floyd: Of course I named it after myself. (Laughs) Being me right? It was Aaron B. Floyd Enterprises Incorporated, A.B.F. Inc. And everybody said why are you naming it after yourself? I said, "you know, if you don't deliver, they're going to remember." I says, "Because I'm going to deliver." My name's on the damn door. I want people to know it's me and if I don't deliver, I want to know. I want somebody to walk up to me and say, "You didn't do what you said."

**[1:04:00]**

You can find me, I ain't hiding from you. Worked out for me. We delivered. When I sold it, it was worth about seventy million bucks. I didn't make seventy million, but it was worth that. (laughs) We had seventy-two million dollars in contracts when I sold it.

Evans: So, you—you mentioned before we talked about your family briefly that, when you went to intelligence school everything changed.

Floyd: Right.

Evans: Why?

Floyd: Well, being I found my niche, right, then what I—what I found out was—I didn't know all this at the time—during the cold war, the one whom we really didn't like the Russians.

Both: (Laughs)

Floyd: We—we targeted with nuclear weapons, Russia. I don't know how much I can tell you, but that's what we did. And all that computer knowledge I had

**[1:05:00]**

was used to direct that targeting and all of it—we did all of this, on the bases out in the west. And so, they needed—we needed—we were going to drop nuclear weapons on folks hundreds of thousands of miles away so we had to be very precise and take a missile from there to there with pinpoint accuracy. And so we did all of that for all the targets that we had and then every three or four months we would change all of it so that the bad guys that got into—had hacked us—they wouldn't know who was going where and what was going where. So we switched it around and in order to all that you needed a machine. You couldn't do that with a slide rule. When I was—when I was here, I used a slide rule to do my calculations. You guys got it ma—you got it made.

Both: (Laugh)

Floyd: Computer does it all for you. You don't need Fortran [computer programming language], cause you can do it in there. But when I was in, you did a slide rule. All those computations,

**[1:06:00]**

we had to do on the computer. And we used we used the Big Crays. Have you ever hear of a Cray machine? C-R-A-Y? It was the first big number cruncher that—it was like Watson, it was Watson—it's smaller you know? When I was there in Strategic Air Command Headquarters, our computers covered three or four floors underground—one hundred feet underground and all the rooms down there were filled with big computers and all the memory that I have in here—we had floors of that to do what that can do. And in order to do all that, we did the punch card, you have probably heard of that. You first punch a card and then you put that in the machine and it creates the program and you have to take it out and verify it and all of that stuff. And if you're running down the hall with all of your cards in a little stack and you stumble and all of your cards fall on the floor, you have to go back and do it all over again. Because you punch—each card is a

**[1:07:00]**

direction to the computer. And every one is different. So if you drop them you can't ever put them back together. So you needed to go—so, that's what we did. And now they—people don't do that anymore. They got—the IBMs of the world created Watson, so all of that's done for you automatically and how many things they can do for you per second per second. But we needed to have all that crunching power and people like me and folks—when I worked at Omaha, Nebraska, I had people from Harvard that worked for me that were really, really bright in computers. They didn't want to be an officer, they just wanted to put in their three years and get out and we could use them. Those people—some of those people are probably running Microsoft and all of those places.

Evans: So you mentioned—you mentioned Fortran?

Floyd: Fortran—F-O-R-T-R-A-N—formula translation—that's what it stands for. How you take an algorithm that does all of this and translate it to this.

**[1:08:00]**

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: That's what it's called. Fortran.

Evans: You mentioned you worked with Strategic Air Command. Was Strategic Air Command—were you just part of the Triad—the Nuclear Triad, or were you—

Floyd: We were—

Evans: Or were you all of the triad?

Floyd: We were the triad.

Evans: Okay. What was that like, having all this destructive capability and controlling it?

Floyd: (laughs) We didn't want to think about that.

Both: (laughs)

Floyd: But it was necessary and that's why, when you hear people say, "The president has his name on the nuke—has his finger on the nuclear trigger." That's very serious work, because if he tells us to launch we have to launch. We cannot not launch, so he better know what he's doing, because the world is going to get wiped out when we do it, because the other guys are going to launch to. So when I was going up in the Air Force, we had massive retaliation, that we—we wouldn't

launch against the Russians unless they launched

[1:09:00]

against us. We wouldn't go first. And everybody knew that. The Russians knew that and we knew that, and that made it destabilizing, because it said if somebody hit us with nuclear weapons, it wasn't the United States, cause they told us they wouldn't do it first. We'll have to hit them first. But we told them that if you open up your—in order to launch a missile, you have to open up the silo door. It's twenty feet—it's a missile on the ground, on the concrete. And you got to slide it back. You can't do that in a second, it takes minutes to open that. Well, we're watching, so don't open your door if you are not ready to shoot, because we got to assume—if you tell us you're testing (laughs) and you don't test from there, you test from another facility. You won't test from that active place. So we were watching with reconnaissance flights and all that. So, the nuclear—if the war—if somebody said the Russians were about to attack us or had attacked us—if somebody said the Russians

[1:10:00]

had attacked us, the President, even Trump says, "okay, launch." We have—"launch this battle plan," we have several plans, right?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: Do this one. We'd have to do this one. End of story. And somebody would do something to us.

Evans: Was there—I'm sorry.

Floyd: Go ahead.

Evans: Was there ever a time when you were part of Strategic Air Command that things got really dicey and you were very close to opening up the silos and retaliating.

Floyd: I can't talk about that.

Evans: Um-hm (Laughs) Just to clarify you mentioned massive retaliation and that Russia knows that if they attack us, we're going to strike back and vice versa—

Floyd: Massively.

Evans: Massively.

Floyd: Not like we going to selectively—we know where all of your stuff is, that's why we have a treaty. That's why having a treaty is important. They decided, the

Russians and us, under [Ronald] Reagan, that we would stand down.

**[1:11:00]**

That we'd reduce the number of warheads. We don't want—we don't want everybody to have one, because, you know, now Pakistan has some, India has some, Israel has some. A whole bunch of people—Europe—England has them, a whole bunch of folks—France has them. And you don't want to start a nuclear holocaust. You don't want to do that. Can't get out of it. And now, North Korea has some, so—that's a dangerous situation, by the way. Cause they're stupid. They may use theirs and blame it on somebody else. But they won't escape, guaranteed. They won't escape. We won't believe them.

Evans: Just to clarify, this massive retaliation is know as Mutually Assured Destruction?

Floyd: I think that's what it was called later.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Okay. MAD was the—well, yeah.

Evans: Um—

Floyd: But policy people make that and they do that so that—and we—it worked right?

**[1:12:00]**

We haven't had a nuclear war since Japan. We haven't had—no one's has fired a nuclear round. So you don't want everybody to have it, cause some people are crazy and you want to be able to talk to them and say, "if that goes off—did you do that?" Because we can't wait for the second one.

Both: (Both Laughs)

Floyd: You may get the first one off, but you won't get a second one off. So that's what that's about.

Evans: Did you work with our—with the United States' NATO allies in helping them set up their nuclear programs for—as part of the nuclear defense?

Floyd: I did not, but somebody did.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Somebody—somebody did. I didn't do that. My biggest job was—I was on the SAC IG [Strategic Air Command Inspector General] team and we visited all of



the bases in the United States and overseas that had the capability.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: And we visited them, and they didn't know we were coming, and we tested them.

Evans: Okay.

**[1:13:00]**

Floyd: To see if they were ready. And in the middle of the night, we would descend on Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, that has bombers and missiles and ground based missiles and they didn't know we were coming. And we would declare that we were an airplane with an emergency at 3 a.m. (Laughs) And they would come out and foam the runway because we were Pan Am something and we got to land because we had an engine failure and then we would land and they would see we weren't Pan Am and we would—we had a two-star general that would stand in the door with his shield he would say, "Roll your war plan, this is the SAC IG." From the moment he said that they had seven minutes to put fifteen B-52s in the air, loaded, on their way.

**[1:14:00]**

And if they didn't—if they failed, they didn't get fifteen they got fourteen we'd give them one. If they—if two of them didn't make it, we fired the commander then.

Evans: Wow—

Floyd: Fired him. Put him on the airplane and send him back home. Send to Offutt to be debriefed. He didn't do his job.

Evans: Did that happen a lot?

Floyd: (Laughs) It—I think it happened twice while I was on the team for three years. Because you give these—these guys I'm inspecting were Colonels—O-sixes—I wasn't a Colonel at that time, I was a Lieutenant Colonel. And we had given them airplanes, the nuclear weapons, the people, and they're supposed to get this done. So, you can't tell me a plane didn't work. Come on. You're supposed to test them every day. So we would continue and test everything on base. Somebody would jump in the airplane and fly with the B-52s. Somebody would fly with the intelligence guys and make sure they knew their target lines.

**[1:15:00]**

Somebody would go to the motor pool to see that all the trucks were working. Somebody would go the bomb dump to see all the nuclear weapons were stored properly. Somebody would go to the mess hall to see if they were cooking the right meals. All of that. So we would test them. And they never knew it, that we were coming and then we would go away, and they wouldn't know—and we could come back the next day if we wanted to or within six months. They just never knew. And that was—that was very interesting part of my life.

Both: (Laugh)

Floyd: Accountability is what I learned.

Evans: Just to clarify what does SAC IG stand for?

Floyd: Strategic Air Command Inspector General.

Evans: Okay. How did—how did Ball State—how did being here on campus, being part of the R.O.T.C. program, and taking all of your classes—how did that prepare you for your time not

**[1:16:00]**

only in Strategic Air Command, but with the Air Force in general? How did that prepare you—

Floyd: Well it was a start. It was a first step. And it was a good first step. And they did all they could to prepare us to go do those jobs. And—and just like college prepares you, but not for any particular job, it just prepares you to study, to get information, to process it, to use it. That's what R.O.T.C. did. And about accountability and about new things and all that. And so that's what it did. It prepared you to say, "I can go there and do this." And every place you went in the Air Force base they all looked alike and worked alike, so you knew a lot about it even though you hadn't been to that particular one. They all had the same things in place. It was a little city out there somewhere who had a mission to either fly airplanes for training, fly airplanes for fighting, fly airplanes, or take care of missiles and whatever,

**[1:17:00]**

or do reconnaissance, and so, in that way it was helpful. And while I was here in R.O.T.C., we visited bases and I went to summer camp in Alabama, by the way. (Laughs) I went summer camp at Craig Air Force base in Selma, wow. (laughs) So, I went down there and we—that's a training base, all they do there is train pilots to fly. So we went there and stayed six and whatever. So it was all—you know, you learned. And what you—everything you learned was not particularly

applicable to a place—one place, but you learned how things work, how a big organization works. How—cause a base is like a city. It has its fire department, police department, legal things, it has all those things and learning all of that, you could see a microcosm how a big city works. Because we have a big city that is surrounded with a

**[1:18:00]**

runway attached. An airport. And so it was helpful.

Evans: You mentioned—you mentioned Selma. What was that like for you, coming back to Alabama going to Selma after graduating from Ball State and being in the Air Force.

Floyd: I hadn't graduated. I was a sophomore.

Evans: Oh, Okay.

Floyd: So, (laughs) me and a couple of white guys, right?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: Drove to Selma. And we got these strange looks, cause three—like we were—this is 1958. Freedom Riders, right? So we got these strange looks, what are these guys doing in here? A black guy and two white guys. So every time we went to a service station, we had to check our six. They gave us strange looks, but we weren't starting any—so that was different. Because when I lived in Alabama, we weren't doing all of that, right?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: People were protesting, but they weren't—they didn't have teams of people going out and doing anything. People protested

**[1:19:00]**

at their houses, or at their schools, or whatever. So then—but when you got on base, it was all Air Force. Except, (laughs) except at one, they had a cotillion on base, right, where the locals, I guess for the last fifty years have been having a party with the local—with the cadets and the local ladies right? High school, college or whatever—college. Well, this is Selma, Alabama, so me and—there about ten of us black cadets in the whole department. So we were all getting ready to go, shining our shoes, getting ready to go to the cotillion. We got (laughs) they put on the loudspeaker, Floyd, Whiteson, Jones, Smith, Thomas. And we said, oh, shit.

Both: (Both Laugh)

Floyd: Pardon that. That's all us. (laughs)

[1:20:00]

Floyd: We report to the early room. We all went down there and we looked around and we said, what did we all do? They said, we wanted to tell you that we're going to let you guys have the night off. We said, no, that's fine. We were going to go to the cotillion. They said, no you can't go to the cotillion. It's a local custom and there's white girls and black guys and you can't be in a room with them. I said, "but this is the Air Force." We protested, we said, well, why do not you just don't have it then if we cannot attend? They said, well, it's out of our hands. We have to maintain good relationships with the locals and so that's what we're going to. I remember that they gave us the time, we could go to downtown, and I remember that the movie we went to see was *North by Northwest* (laughs). That's the movie we saw that night. I remember. We were honestly we were, we were

[1:21:00]

a bit disappointed, all of us. We thought the Air Force was better than that. But, they don't do that anymore, but they did it then. They sure did. So that wasn't any fun. But the rest of it was alright.

Evans: We—we as part of the Ball State African American Alumni Project, we had to read a book by a professor here on campus, Bruce Geelhoode, and in his book he described Ball State Teachers College as a campus that was in "splendid isolation"—not very aware of the events that were going on around the world especially—specifically the Civil Rights movement of the era. Was that—did you feel like—as though that was the case?

Floyd: I remember my time at Ball State as very good times and nobody protested about anything.

[1:22:00]

But being a southerner I didn't expect to be integrated (laughs). So I—I mean—and the kids I was with went to Muncie with white kids, right?

Evans: Um-hm.

Floyd: It was an integrated environment they came from. So they were used to socializing with other folks, so I didn't feel that particular thing, but the times were different. We knew that things were happening outside of here that affected us and things weren't that great in Muncie, Indiana. I remember that too. They

were having kind of little situations in Muncie, Indiana. I remember that the time I came up here. I came up on the bus and they were having a demonstration at the pool in Muncie, Indiana, back the year I came, where somebody was shooting a gun at some black kids going to swim. I remember that. That was in 1956. So I felt—hm, I thought I left all of this. (Laughs)

Evans: What was that like? Going up here and taking

**[1:23:00]**

Evans: the bus and you see the—

Floyd: The things happening?

Evans: The things happening? What was—what was that like? I mean you are coming—

Floyd: Well—

Evans: From Alabama and then you come up to Indiana which is the supposed to be the North, the Promised Land, and this is going on?

Floyd: Yeah. Black folks are not naïve. We've been doing this for three hundred years or five hundred. So we adjust. You can't confront every damn thing all the time. It just will [not] work. And so you accept gradualism, you do some and you move on to others. So I was pleased to come to here to go to school that I could afford and get a good education. And I was accepted on campus. I was President of the Science Club. So...

Evans: Were there any other—were there any other moments after—once you had graduated and—

**[1:24:00]**

Evans: were there any other moments like the incident at Selma? Regarding race and the Air Force?

Floyd: Yeah. Not quite like that. But remember this—a lot of the Air Force bases are in Southern states. Okay so there's some places nobody wanted to ever get stationed, like Biloxi, Mississippi. Everybody wants to go there now, cause they have casinos and all that. During my era, nobody wanted—and we have our big communications school. It's at Biloxi, Mississippi. So all the black guys said, man I don't want to go down there, because I won't be able to find any place to live off campus. There won't be a house for me, except in the hood. Even though I'm a Captain and I can afford better, I won't be able to find better. I'm going to take my kids down there—their school system, because I came through one of those. So—so and so it all depended on where you were. This—well I can tell you



something the Air Force did and all of the services did that the

**[1:25:00]**

community hasn't done. And I don't know if they could do it. We created something called Social Actions back in the sixties—seventies? Early seventies? The Air Force created a—a trained group of people, mostly minorities right?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: That, on every base we taught race relations to everybody on the base. We taught equal opportunity to everybody on the base. And then we also had on drug and alcohol abuse because that was kind of—so the Air Force asked me, at Upper Heyford, England, to come out of the squadron where I was conducting intelligence and go to school for this. And I said, “No, I don't want to do that. I want to stay down here, cause that's my field. I am an intelligence officer. What's going to happen to me when I leave here and I don't get promoted?” So the general who ran the place said “Listen”—

**[1:26:00]**

I was a major—“major, do you want that Lieutenant Colonel writing your report, or do you want this three-star writing your report?” He said, “I will be the guy writing your report. You work directly for me.” I says, “darn!”

Both: (Both laughs)

Floyd: “When can I start?” Now what—what the uniqueness of this was that the Air Force and all of the services had schools on base and everybody had to come. From the commander on down and nobody wore their uniforms. And you sat in a room for about four days—four days in the middle of the week—and talked about race relations. And all the sergeants that were from Mississippi said, “Well I don't know nothing about black people and I don't like them.” And they said, well, he's one, and he's the captain. And he hasn't done anything to you. “Well, he's alright but the rest”—(laughs) And then black people have their own prejudices too and we talked about them. And when you left the class you had a better—you might not have changed your mind but you had a better understanding

**[1:27:00]**

of what they went through. What the people in the Appalachians went through, what we went through in cities and all that. So on the base, things were better because of that. People spoke to you because they knew you other than a black person. Also, doing that training, we did the equal opportunity. So when—if you were a sergeant and you had done all the things you needed to do get promoted, but you

were never getting promoted. You'd been doing this for seven years and you never got promoted, but you saw guys come in before you, who were white, and got promoted for doing—and you trained them and they end up being promoted above you. That was happening all the time. So we were able—they said, “okay, you the equal opportunity officer? You look at that case and you find out what’s going on.” We—and I could bring people in and they would come talk to me and I wouldn’t tell that they came. They didn’t—nobody knew they were there. And then we’d talk about it. And then, if the commander who was doing that, had promoted—had all these black guys and never promoted

**[1:28:00]**

any of them, we would bring him in and say “listen, you had nine of these people. None of them were good enough to be promoted to the next rank? “Well, he did this” and I said, “well you promoted these other guys and they did the same thing. You were finding an excuse for some of them.” He said, “well”—we said, “well, listen, the Air Force doesn’t agree with you. So we’re going to give you an opportunity to improve your score.”

Both: (laughs)

Floyd: “So we’re going to give you—on the next board, you’ve heard this, you’ve been through equal opportunity training. Now, we’re not going to promote anybody over you, right, but we’re going to give you an opportunity to make up for what you’ve been doing.” And the next time he did the list, we looked at it. And if he—and we knew who—who he had and what they could they do. They could all fix the airplane, they could all write the ticket, they could do all this stuff, but the black ones weren’t getting promoted to sergeant. They were all hammering, sit there—all hammering. They weren’t at all. So, the light would come on. Click! If I don’t do this, I don’t get promoted next time. So all

**[1:29:00]**

of a sudden he said, “okay, now I understand” And that’s the way we did. So now you felt like you had an equal chance, and it went around the Air Force. Where they were having race riots on army bases, we didn’t have any. Because people felt they were listened to and being treated equally. And that the commander—we said the general’s telling you this. Not me, I’m just a major, the general says you got to improve or you ain’t going to be here. We can send you somewhere else. Maybe you want to retire early? And it worked. So, people talk about affirmative action and all that, the military service is the best affirmative action laboratory ever. You look around all those folks that are generals now, there are a whole bunch of black generals you see now in all of the services. They didn’t have those before. People were just not promoting them. Now they are.

**[1:30:00]**

Floyd: And you see people making four-stars and commanding units. Women made—there's a four-star black admiral. When I was starting, women couldn't even get commissioned in the Navy! That was in 1960. You couldn't get commissioned in the Navy. Said you'd be on the ship. You can't be out there with all those guys, it's a bad thing. All that has changed. Society out here has not kept up. They haven't kept up. Corporate America doesn't care about all of that—sometimes they do. There are—I worked for—I worked with IBM, they're a good company. They keep up. I worked with G.E. they keep up. All of the ones that have to do with military contracts, they have to keep up, because the Federal Government won't give them a contract unless they share some of the wealth with minorities. They just want to get the next contract, so they learned their lesson. But some companies don't do it. You just—they don't do it. They could learn a lot, but you cannot mandate

**[1:31:00]**

it to private industry. You can mandate it in the military. See, you don't do it. you don't get another contract. That's it. You won't—it's going to cost you fifty billion dollars not to give one contract to A.B. Floyd. Who's qualified for all the things—did all the things you did. Went to the war when you went. So...

Evans: You mentioned your company and I want to talk about that shortly. Just briefly, to wrap up your time with the Air Force.

Floyd: Okay.

Evans: You retired in—?

Floyd: '84.

Evans: 1984 Before that, were you—did you work with—and if you can tell me—did you work with—as part of Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" project?

Floyd: Yeah. A little bit.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: But not much. That was—it wasn't—it was a waste of money. The theory wasn't perfected. He was going to put a

**[1:32:00]**

big shield over everything and that wasn't going to work. Just wasn't going to work. But the big companies liked it because they spent lots of time getting ready

for it and billions of dollars and never produced a product.

Both: (Both laugh)

Floyd: So that didn't work.

Evans: Was it because it was impractical scientifically or just—

Floyd: They could of done it but it—you can't ever protect everybody from everything. You'd have to lock everybody up. If you didn't want any more crime you could do that if you locked everybody up.

Both: (Both Laughs)

Floyd: So he was going to build a big dome and big "Star Wars" so that anybody shot a missile anywhere at us could pick them out of the sky. We're not that good, it just looks like that on TV.

Evans: (Laughs)

Floyd: We aren't that good. Okay. Now we can put a dome like we just sold that stuff to South Korea, right?

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: For North Korea. So that if something comes over from North Korea, we can put a dome over South Korea because they're small and anything that is shot from there they can destroy before it gets there. But we couldn't do that for Europe.

**[1:33:00]**

Not for the whole continent. There isn't enough money. So, yeah, that's what he was trying to do. That's what "Star Wars" was supposed to be, to interdict nuclear missiles in our space from falling anywhere. We decided the best—we'd tell them don't shoot them or we're going to kill you. And that—we didn't have to spend all that money

Evans: So once you left the Air Force in '84, you—what did you do afterwards? Did you immediately found A.B. Floyd Enterprises?

Floyd: No, I went to work for two—two of the big giants up there: for Booze Allen and Hamilton and for Science Applications International, S-A-I-C. All—both of those people are government contracts. They have millions of dollars in government contracts and I worked for them and they hired me because I came right out defense intelligence. D-I-A and I knew all those people because they had worked for me.

**[1:34:00]**

They were contractors to me and they figured if I came out and worked for them they could get some more contracts because I knew—and I did. I knew where the contracts were. And so I worked for them, but after a couple of years, I went out to get a piece of work at N.S.A. [National Security Administration]—the one you hear about all the time—and I went there marketing for S.A.I.C., and so the guy—I met a black guy up there who turned out to be a Kappa Brother of mine. He said, “A.B.,” he says, “is this your company?” I said, “no” He said, “If this was your company I could give you a three million dollar slice of this hundred million dollar contract because there’s a set aside for a minority firm that has your clause.” Says, “you got all the clearances you done all the work. If you were—if you had the”—an 8A—the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or ’65, has a provision in it called set aside for minority firms. It’s called,

**[1:35:00]**

and it’s provision 8-A. That’s what it’s called, paragraph 8A. Says if the Federal Government contracts to do blank-to-blank so much will be set aside for minority run firms. Not a lot. But a three million dollar piece out of one hundred million dollar contract. And that three million dollar piece has to do something that’s—you just can’t just sell they’re going to do training. They have to do something that that contract does as a benefit and they have to make the same kind of money that you make. So we promote—if you provide a set aside for a minority firm that you can’t pick one but you just say it’s available, then the minority firms come in and compete. And say, “I can do it” and another guys says, “I can do it better” and another says “I can do it cheaper.” And then you have to choose one of them. And so I said, “well, where do you get this 8A certification? He says, “‘Small Business Administration.’ You apply.” So I said, “But I was a colonel already and I’m already—I’m not poor.”

**[1:36:00]**

They says—they said, the criteria—if you do not—if you don’t have a million dollars in the bank, then you qualify. If you got—just got two hundred thousand dollars in the bank, you qualify, you’re poor enough. (Laughs) Because you realize, you got have some money to do this stuff. So I applied and got a certification. Then I went back to see my buddy and he gave me a piece of work. And I teamed with the company that had sent me out there before. So I gave it back to them and me. Except I got to run it and I got to have—be the president and they did a piece and I did a piece. But I was their partner. And that grew to other partnerships.

Evans:

What was the name of the your—what was the name of your buddy that helped you to—



Floyd: You know, I have to say, I don't remember right now. I think his name was Garner but I'm not really sure.

Evans: Okay. So after—

**[1:37:00]**

Evans: so is that how A.B. Floyd Enterprises—

Floyd: That is how we—that was our first real piece of work.

Evans: Okay. So what happened after that?

Floyd: After I got that and had a—once you get a piece of work you got a track record. Then, you don't know this, but the government has a database of all the work that is going to come out in the next five years. They put it in the paper. They put it online. Okay. And so you look online and it says we need people to do this that has this skill and dot dot and this many people and whatever. And then you go and to that agency and see if you can do it and talk to them. And they say, okay. It is called Fed Biz Opps, F-E-D, B-I-Z, O-P-P-S, Federal Business Opportunities, and you look in there and there's regular contracts, none—you know there's regular contracts for the billions of dollars but there's some set aside contracts for small businesses.

**[1:38:00]**

Some just for small businesses, period, no minority related. And some are small businesses minority. And so you can be both. So, then you find one in there and you go talk to somebody about that piece of work. And if you can convince them that you can do it, then they will consider you and they may choose you. And the second piece was with the defense research agency called DARPA [Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency], that was my second piece. And they needed someone that had a top-secret facility and could run—so they could house their whole agency in to do some special work. I didn't have a top-secret facility at the time, but I told them I could get one (laughs). So I went and rented a space that—I had clearances but I didn't have a facility. I rented a space that was a top-secret facility, then I went back to them and said "I got a space." They said, how did you get a space in a week? I said, "don't ask me no questions. I got a space" (laughs). And they said, ok. So they gave me—

**[1:39:00]**

A contract to house all their folks and they were an agency that had a six hundred million dollar budget and I got to help them select projects to run and all that stuff and run that space. And so, that was the second one I had. I think the first year I

cleared a million dollars. And then it goes from there. But the key to my success as a small business was the clearances and the background. Anybody couldn't do it, you just can't get a clearance. You can't say, "I want a clearance" that's not working. You have to have to—they investigate you. They went to my hometown, my mother said, "they've been down there asking about you. What have you done?"

Both: (laughs)

Floyd: "There was two men here with badges." They were doing background investigations and if they clear you then you—once you're cleared, you stayed cleared, unless you screwed up financially and go bankrupt and then they

**[1:40:00]**

won't trust you anymore because they said you could be bought. If somebody knows you're bankrupt, they could say, give me this secret, or I'm going to tell people that you're bankrupt and you're going to lose your clearance. So that won't work. You can't be bankrupt and have financial problems. You can't have moral problems. You can't have conflict of interest problems and still be cleared. You have to be a straight arrow. So there's a small group of us, there's millions of us but it's still is a small—small group. Okay, so that's valuable. So to take care of my kids I—and when they were in my business, I had them cleared. So they have clearances. They never served in the military but they have clearances. And so—and they worked with me on contracts so they know that—they know my customers. So my daughter has taken it a step further and doing other things so that's how that works.

Evans: Just really quick, the group that you worked with for DARPA to—to house—for the top-secret facility—

**[1:41:00]**

are you allowed to tell me the agency that you worked with or the company that you helped set up that up with?

Floyd: It was—the agency was DARPA.

Evans: The agency was DARPA.

Floyd: Um-hm

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: Defense Research Agency, I think. Advanced—Defense Advanced Research Agency, I think that's what DARPA stands for. Research, something. D-A-R-P-

A. When you call me back, I can tell you what that means.

Evans: Okay.

Floyd: They're people that invented the Internet. They really did. Al Gore did not do it.

Both: (Laughs)

Floyd: They actually—it was it was a net that we invented—that they invented so that their research people at all of the universities working on special projects could talk to each other. And they secured that net so that somebody at—up in New York at Rensselaer Tech or somebody at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] working on a specific project for the Department of the Defense. A lot of stuff you see come out, we started it. We started it for war reasons and then it was then taken into the public domain.

**[1:42:00]**

But we started it. And they—that was something they said we need so these people can talk to each other and share data in a secure network and that's—and they invented that and made it work and I think they had, oh, fifty or a hundred universities on it. And then Al Gore said he did it but he didn't. And then, when people saw that, then the big guys like Microsoft helped us improve their architecture and the routing and all of that. Cisco and all of those people helped us do all that. And they really did do the first Internet. And then, once it took off, then the other smarter guys than us say, hey we could use that to do (starts snapping fingers) this and this and this and this, and you can see now, you couldn't live without it. The guy at Facebook said, "Hey, they have a net out there. I can do this I can have—introduce people socially and we can make money on that," so.

Evans: What's that like? Seeing—being at the forefront of the development of the Internet and then watching it explode into the—

Floyd: It really is

**[1:43:00]**

Floyd: something. It really is something. I know people who made—I know the guy—the guy who did the first domain names. He's a black guy. He had come up with a piece of architecture to do the first domain—what is that called? Network Solutions. Network Solutions was a small guy in Virginia that had come up with this technology to do domain names. And at the time, he went to some obscure place and got somebody in commerce to give him the whole thing. That you can do all the domain names for everybody ever. Okay. And he didn't know what he had, and so he—they—some his people on his board, they said, man, somebody

will pay us twenty million dollars for that. He says, “But we could do—if we kept it, we could make billions.” Oh no, twenty million is all I want. Because he had partners, and they just wanted a couple of million apiece. So he didn’t own it all.

**[1:44:00]**

They had a third and, a third, and a third, or something, so he sold out. He sold out and I think—I think someone else bought it and I think it was—maybe that was the Network Solution bought it and then, within a week or two, it was a billion dollar company because of the potential to sell your names to everybody. Now there’s Google has some and you know. But that—for a long time, that one company Network solutions had all the domain names. Then somebody sued them, and says you got to let us in on it and then now, a lot of people have them. GoDaddy and all that, now they have them. But I knew the guy who did it at first.

Evans: Do you know what his name was?

Floyd: Emmitt, E-M-M-I-T-T, I’ll tell you the last name, but his first name was Emmitt. I remember that. He incubated me when I first got started. I went to his office and said,

**[1:45:00]**

“I don’t have room for—I don’t have no money for a room. Can I work out here with you guys? Until I get started, until I get a piece of work.” And he said, “Okay.” Emmitt McHenry. M-C-H-E-N-R-Y. So I went and worked—and then the DARPA piece came to my attention, but I didn’t have a small business officer that knew how to do that part. Emmitt did. He gave me his guy, so we went down and went talked—he could talk DARPA language about how to make the contracting work to me. Emmitt couldn’t take it because he’s outgrown it; he was too big to get that piece of work. And so I teamed with him to do it and we won the contract. I think I had ten people, I gave him three on that contract. So he had three people that came to work for me to do that work and I did the other seven.

Evans: What other—do you remember, as you got closer to when you retired which was in—

Floyd: 2005. I sold in 2005.

**[1:46:00]**

Evans: When you sold—Before you sold your company in 2005, we had the attack on the World Trade Center. Did that—what did do that do for your business?

Floyd: It did a lot. I used to run the readiness contract and then that blew up. Readiness

for all of the agencies, all the Federal Agencies that have to go to war—the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, they have a readiness rating—are they ready to go to war? And you have to say do they have the right people, the right equipment, the right training, and then given all that, we give them a readiness score. Like, A is like you're ready, B is like you're almost ready and C, no you ain't ready. (laughs) Okay, and that's maintained at—up there in D.C. in DISA, Defense Information Systems Agency and I had the contract to put all of that together and keep that going for ten years.

**[1:47:00]**

So we knew—we know what unit—when they say we want to send a unit to Afghanistan. We want to send—we'd say which unit of paratroopers has the right equipment to go to Afghanistan, who didn't—who didn't just get back? You know, all of that. We'd say, these guys ready, but they was just back last week, they've been there a year. So we would give them the right people and they would send the right people. And we ran the database.

Evans: Would that—did that—did being able to do that—was that—were you able to do that as a result of your training—of being a part of SAC IG?

Floyd: All of that worked together, but I had computer—once I got into this place, I had computer people that knew JavaScript and all of that and we wrote all of those contracts. And then I won a great big one, too—and that's when I sold. I won a great big one so I decided I needed to go to Florida.

Both: (Laugh)

Evans: Once you sold, you started a scholarship—

**[1:48:00]**

Floyd: Right.

Evans: For Ball State Students.

Floyd: I did.

Evans: What is—what's the name of the scholarship?

Floyd: One of them is called Aaron B. Floyd—let me see—A. B. Floyd Capital—it'll come to me. I had two of them. One for Dr. Scott and mine is Aaron B. Floyd and Levan R. Scott Scholarship and the other one is—oh, I can't remember, but it's A. B. Floyd Capital—you can look it up (laughs) but they're both are worth about a hundred-thousand dollars. Each.



Evans: Why set up a scholarship?

Floyd: I—when I was here in the school, I got a lot of help and assistance, so I like Ball State. And number two, when I was here in the school—my scholarships are for people who’ve already done their first year and they want to continue.

**[1:49:00]**

You can’t, you know—your parents got you in here, and you’re here and you’re doing good and I—when I was here, people had to quit, because they couldn’t get the second year’s money. The first year somebody got them something from college or high school, but then they ran out of money. And I said, “that shouldn’t”—people that should’ve been in school. And so I said, “if I’m ever able, I’ll set up scholarships that people, who have already proven themselves, who are already matriculated and going into there second year, and need five hundred of the thousand dollars or whatever to keep going. Or to go on—or to join a society or do something like that. I’d like for my money to do that.” And that’s what we have done.

Evans: When you—when you look back on everything that you’ve accomplished, starting from a kid in a small in Opelika, Alabama, going to Ball State University and being at the forefront of the Air Force—

Floyd: Luckily! (Laughs)

Evans: What—when you look back

**[1:50:00]**

on all that, what is your—what are you most proud of?

Floyd: Oh. I—I think I’m most proud of having persevered through a lot of stuff. And people helped me do that, right? They gave me the right attitude about it all. And everything—you’re not going to get everything you want and if this door closes another one opens up. So don’t get down on yourself. And I learned that in sports right? You don’t win every game. And I learned it in school. And I learned it in the Air Force; I was going to go fly, and that didn’t work and I went somewhere else. I just kept working at it. And so—and in my company what I learned was—I said, “you know,” I told my daughter, “the reason we have this company because I thought of it.”

**[1:51:00]**

It just started in here. Nobody gave it to me, I just thought I could do a company and that thought, that idea, added with my background, ended up with in company that was, when I sold it, worth ten million dollars, alright.

Evans: Um-hm

Floyd: And I said, “you know, you can do that do.” So it’s possible. I want my grandkids to know it’s possible too. That, you know—and everybody doesn’t have the same gifts, and I understand that. But I’m proud that I’m able to help to give back for the breaks I think I got, and I did.

Evans: How many grandkids do you have?

Floyd: Six. Three boys, two—three girls.

Evans: Before we conclude, is there anything that we did not ask you that you would like for us to know about you or about your experiences?

Floyd: Well, I think I talked about everything.

Both: (Laughs)

Floyd: I’m hard to stop. (Laughs)

**[1:52:00]**

Floyd: I—well you know, first I want to make sure that—my parents did a lot with a little. With third grade educations, to get us all to go to school, and to lead by example in an environment where it’s tough for them. They weren’t ever going to get what I got. They were going to be in Opelika, so I was—so all credit goes to them and my community and that J. W. Darden High School and my elementary school. All credit goes to them. Then after that’s a piece of cake after that. Everyplace I arrived, I found out I was prepared. Didn’t know it till I got there, but I was. Through what my parents did, what the community did, what the church did and then, then I’ve had friends—I’ve had friends to help

**[1:53:00]**

me throughout my career. There’s never been a time when somebody didn’t step up. And you don’t ever know, you never know, who is—who is—where it’s coming from. And so I’m appreciative of all that. I know I didn’t do it by myself and I’ve been pretty successful, for a little old boy from Opelika.

Both: (Laughs)

Floyd: I was pretty successful.

Evans: Just really quick, what was the name of your elementary school?

Floyd: It was East Street Elementary.

Evans: Colonel Floyd, on behalf of the Ball State African American Alumni Oral History Project, I would like to thank you, not just for your time to do this and for your participation to do this, but also for your service to this country, and being an inspiration not just for—not just for your kids and your grandkids, but for all students. Black or white. Thank you very much.

Floyd: Thank you. Appreciate it.

**[1:54:00]**

*End of interview*

April 23, 2017

Dear Col. Floyd

Thank you for participating in an Oral History workshop for the Ball State University African Alumni project on March 27. The information you gave in your interview was very helpful. Your interview will be kept as part of the permanent collection of the Ball State Digital Media Repository.

A review copy of the transcript of your interview will be completed and sent to you within a few months. When looking over it, please make sure all proper names are spelled correctly and that the transcriber has accurately typed what you said. After you have returned your corrected transcript, we will make the necessary changes and send you a final copy to thank you for participating in this project.

I appreciated you being so open to discussing your time in U.S. Strategic Air Command. As a military historian I found these details to be extremely interesting. You are truly an inspiration.

Thank you for your service to this country. Also thank you again for your time and information.

Sincerely yours,

Mick Evans

Ball State University African American Alumni  
Oral History Project.

April 23, 2017

Dear Col. Floyd,

Thank you for participating in an Oral History Workshop for the Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project on March 27. The information you gave was very helpful. Your interview will be kept as part of the permanent collection of the Ball State Digital Media Repository.

A review copy of the transcript of your interview will be completed and sent to you within a few months. When looking over it, please make sure all proper names are spelled correctly and that the transcriber has accurately typed what you said. After you have returned your corrected transcript, we will make the necessary changes and send you a final copy to thank you for participating in this project.

I appreciated you being so open to discussing your time in U.S. Strategic Air Command. As a military historian I found these details to be extremely interesting. You are truly an inspiration.

Thank you for your service to this country. Also thank you again for your time and information.

Sincerely yours,

Nick Evans

Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project

# **Oral History Portfolio**

**Ella McNeary**



## BIOGRAPHY

**Ella Louise Robinson McNeary** was born in Wildwood, Florida to Elder William Levy and Mrs. Mary L. Robinson. She and her nine (9)

brothers, sisters, 3 older step-siblings and several relatives grew up in Webster Florida. The Robinsons were a very well known, religious,

studious and intelligent family. Her parents(of Church of God) taught them daily to love and revere God , His son Jesus the Christ, and the

Holy Ghost. Eventhough her parents were poor, with moderate education, God showed his favor upon the family. All 10 of their children

graduated from college, worked at universities, schools and for the U.S. government.

She was Valedictorian of her senior class as were 6 of her brothers and sisters. Ella was age 17 when she entered FAMU in

Tallahassee and graduated in 1964 at age 20, with a major in Food, Nutrition and Instutional Management. She completed a 12-month

Dietetic internship at Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton. Ohio; (the only Black her class. Her family opened many doors for Blacks to complete

their education.

She journeyed to Muncie in September 1965 to get a position at Ball Memorial Hospital as a Dietitian. She later was employed by Ball State

University in Residence Halls Dining Service and retired in 1995. She left the university because of Age and Race Discrimination.

She also was a Consultant for the Council on Aging and a Consultant to Parkveiw Nursing Home. She was awarded her Master's degree

from Ball State in 1974. She has degrees in Nutrition and Public Health.

She graduated from Light Learning Institute in 1995, certifying in Women Counseling and attended graduation in Nashville , Tennessee at

the . Later, she began studying Marriage Counseling at the Light Learning Institute.

She is also a Certified Lay Speaker and Lay Leader at Trinity United Methodist Church, Muncie, Indiana.

After living in Muncie for nearly 3 years, She and Edward McNeary were married and they have a son, Edric. Edric and his wife,

Natalia, live in Chicago with their 3 sons, a set of 7 year-old twins and a five year old.

Ella has always studied the Bible and loving God and all of his ways, believing that God loved her and her family. After surviving a

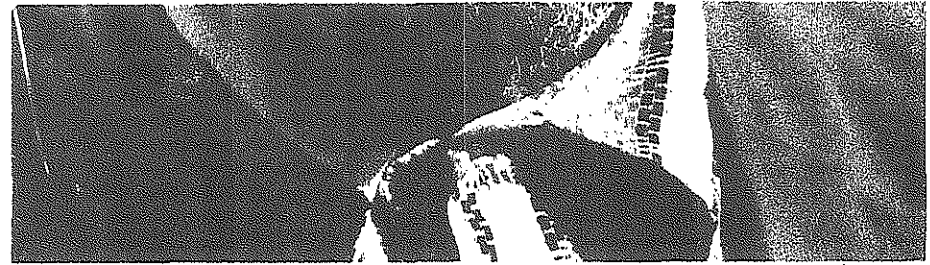
stroke in 1913, she can testify that God loves her; God forgives her; God saves and God heals the sick.

# A LOVE Story

*The courtship was over, but the love story had just begun, as William and Mary Robinson — poor, pious and burning with a fervor for education — set out to send their 10 children through college.*

BY GUION M. KOVNER  
PHOTOGRAPHS: JACKIE GREENE

Parents



Born into the poverty of a large migrant family more than 80 years ago, William Levy Robinson has worked hard and grown rich in a way few men can match.

But his is not the story of a young man who saved his paper route pannies, learned to buy and sell with savvy and today manages a far-flung commercial empire. Robinson's life is rather the conquest of one incredibly strong man, bereft of formal education, over circumstances that condemn most to a lifetime of dull, fruitless labor.

Since childhood, Robinson has labored as a field hand, railroad worker, sharecropper and farmer of his own 40-acre plot. He never has made it to a fat bank account or good credit rating. In old age, he lives on Social Security and the wealth of his unique estate — the 10 children Robinson sent through college from a farm near the tiny Sumter County town of Webster.

The dean of Howard University's College of Pharmacy, the supervisor of high school curriculum in Citrus County, an associate profes-

sor at Tuskegee Institute's School of Veterinary Medicine, the dietetics manager at Ball State University, an electrical engineer for Honeywell Inc. of Pinellas County, three teachers, an electrician and an accounting student owe the rewards of their educated lives and professional careers to the sacrifice and sweat of William Levy Robinson.

As a boy, Robinson remembers, he used to fall asleep on the floor with an open book. He loved to read, and religious books were his only subject. There's no telling what Robinson might have done had he gone to a university with a library full of books on the arts and sciences. But eighth grade was the end of the studious youth's schooling, as his father and three brothers died one by one, leaving him responsible for four sisters and an ailing mother.

Later, he married and had three children while working in the fields and on railroad construction crews as far as 20 miles from home. Robinson commuted to work each week by foot, wedging a day with his family between one long walk Saturday and a re-

turn trip starting early Sunday afternoon. He was paid \$1.10 a day for work that made many men collapse from heat and exhaustion.

A widower at 35, Robinson met his second wife, 19 years his junior, while working on railroad section near Cedar Hammock. He first saw Mary Howard visiting her father at the turpentine distillery. Their courtship began with Victorian propriety. The railroad man wrote letters asking Miss Howard for the pleasure of her company, an after five or six letters, she granted his wish. Three years later, they were married.

What the Robinsons did was uncommon in a Southern farming community like Webster. A miracle, it's been called. For them, however, it was inevitable. The Robinsons would call it predestination; others might see Mary Robinson's childhood vow as the perfect complement to her husband's love of knowledge.

Mary Howard had begged her father to let her go to college, but she was needed to help cook for a family of 14. Besides, her father said, a woman did not need college.

*Continued on page 4*

Guion M. Kovner is a Times reporter.



# McNeary family gives back to community

Edward and Ella McNeary, married 39 years, devout Christians, community activists, watched their parents come to the assistance of people who were afraid to speak up for themselves when they were oppressed by their "bosses". They learned a valuable lesson in speaking out for others and helping others by parental example.

They both are retired, long time members of Trinity United Methodist Church and Black Methodists for Church Renewal; Certified lay speakers in the UMC; lifetime members of the NAACP; members of Indiana Democratic African American Caucus; They are both certified referring travel agents, CEOs of McNeary Travel, [www.mcnearytravel.com](http://www.mcnearytravel.com) and formerly owners of McNeary and Company, a service for hospital patients and in home care.

Edward, formerly of Memphis, TN, observed his mother, Lurlean McNeary, intervene on behalf of other farm workers on several occasions while working for Homer K. Jones.

Another person who influenced his life tremendously was Rev. J.C. Williams, former pastor of Trinity UMC and a community activist. After graduating from Muncie Central HS, Ed served in the U.S. Navy and attended Ball State University. He was employed at Ball Memorial Hospital and

Delco Battery/Delphi Automotive. He also served as the Civil Rights Chair for Delco Battery/Delphi.

They are the parents of two sons, Darryl, a senior investigator for Corporation Security at US Bank in Columbus, Ohio. He also is a member of the professional gospel group, Freedom. He sang with the Sons of Thunder as a teenager while living in Muncie. He is the father of three daughters and the grandfather of two. All three daughters are college students in Ohio. Edric, a graduate of Burris High School and Ball State University, lives in Chicago. He is employed by CDW as a project coordinator and has been a model and has taught modeling classes. He has also made short movies for his company.

Ed has served as a member of numerous boards, organizations and committees during the last five decades: the Muncie HRC; Muncie Housing Authority; Indiana Workforce Development; Teamwork for Quality Living, Boys and Girls Club; Big Brothers and Sisters; YMCA; Dr. MLK Dream Team; Cooley Task Force of Unemployment; and NAACP president and vice president; Strengthening the Black Church; Social Status for Black Males; charter member of IDAAC and Indiana Black Expo. He has received recogni-



Edward and Ella McNeary

tions and honors from: The Muncie Times, Muncie Housing Authority, Big Brothers, NAACP, and Muncie Human Rights Commission.

Prior to his coming to Muncie, his family lived in Memphis, TN. His parents were employed on a farm. His father, Edward, Sr. was the supervisor of approximately 17-17 families of farm workers. His mother, Lurlean, was supervisor of the household workers, time-keeper and assisted her husband on the farm.

His brother, Ervie Lee (deceased), a Muncie Central graduate, was one of the students who assisted in desegregating Tuhey pool.

Ella, formerly of Webster, FL, observed her parents actions as they refused to allow her and her nine siblings to attend the segregated library and movie theaters in Webster, instilling self-respect in themselves. Instead, her father, Rev. William L. Robinson chose to tutor their children at home, which resulted in three honor students, one saluta-

torian and six valedictorians in the family. Her mother, Mary and aunt Terressa, were also instrumental in getting better working conditions and wages for orange grove workers in central Florida. Her parents also taught them that it is better to give than to receive and to show kindness, love and compassion to others.

She is a registered dietitian and Health educator. She has a B.S. from Florida A and M University; ADA from Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton Ohio; M.A. from Ball State University. She has been employed by Ball Memorial Hospital, Ball State University, Consultant dietitian for the Delaware County Council on Aging and Parkview Nursing Center. She is also a certified Christian counselor, earning her certification from the American Association of Christian Counselors in 2005. She also serves as the Indiana State NAACP Health Chair.

She has served on numerous boards and committees during the last three decades: Three committees for the North Indiana Conference; Steering Committee for the Rebuilding of Covenant Partners Ministries; Church Women United; Delaware Coordinating Council to Prevent Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse; Retired Volunteers Senior Program; NAACP membership chair, secretary



# COMMUNITY FOCUS

By Judy Mays

County Emergency Management designs Y2K pamphlet

The Delaware County Emergency Management Agency is distributing a new brochure to ease public concern about such projected Y2K problems as food shortages, power outages and public service disruptions.

The brochure is free. It provides information on family preparedness for predicted year 2000 computer glitches.

Copies are available at the Delaware County Treasurer and auditor offices, in the County Courthouse building.

For more information, call 747-4888.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

The Villages and Indiana Advocates for Children recently presented the Robert J. Kinsey Award to Judge Steven R. Caldemeyer, Delaware Circuit Court, and to Judge Diana J. LaViolette, Putnam County Circuit Court.

The award is presented to the judge with juvenile jurisdiction who best exemplifies characteristics of the late Judge Kinsey, who was recognized for his support and service to youth and children. He died in 1985.

Sharon Pierce, president/CEO of the Villages said, the Kinsey Awards is the highest honor.

Judges and social service leaders throughout Indiana nominate and select the judge who most types Kinsey's concern for helping children.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Kevin Tucker will earn his Eagle Scout merit badge by constructing an echo tube for the Muncie Children's Museum.

The tube is sealed at one end. It echoes any sound (such as a clap) back to the sender.

The 100-foot long, 16-inch wide cardboard tube stretches diagonally across the ceiling of the museum, beginning at the second floor Exploraspace exhibit and

Judy  
Mays



ending above the Animal Acts exhibit.

For more information about the museum and its exhibits call (765) 296-1660-ext.29.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

July programs at Oakhurst Gardens include learning about butterflies and exploring the river for crayfish, turtles and other critters.

To learn more about the summer program call (765) 741-5113.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

The Muncie-Delaware Clean and Beautiful campaign saw 13 neighborhoods collect 241,280 pounds of trash, according to Muncie Sanitation Department data.

The clean-up totals, in pounds, for each neighborhood were: Aultshire, 24,060; East Central, 25,740; Eastside, 21,720; McKinley, 23,600; Minnetrista, 4,600; Morningside, 17,600; Pettigrew, 14,960; Southside Crime Watch, 11,060; Thomas Park, 28,340; White River West, 9,040; and Whitely, 24,560.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

The Geater Community Center, Anderson, Ind., will host the Anderson Black Expo Annual Dust Bowl Basketball tournament Aug. 6 to 8.

Divisions include men's open and 35 and older.

For entry forms and additional

information, call Willy Turner at (765) 648-6866. Entry deadline is July 24.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Indiana Minority Health Coalition's 4th Annual State of Black Indiana Address Luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

Keynote speaker is Ben Johnson, assistant to the President of the United States and Director of the White House office on the President's Initiative for One America Luncheon cost is \$20.

The Delaware County Minority Health Coalition has chartered a bus for Muncie residents to attend the statewide Multi-Cultural Rally on Friday, July 16.

There is no charge.

Participants will also have free admission to the Indiana Black Expo. The bus will leave for Indy at 10:45 a.m. and return to Muncie at around 7 p.m.

Call Phyllis Burks at 284-6994 for more information.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Wapehani Girl Scouts offers free summer program

The Wapehani Girl Scout Council is offering free summer programs to Delaware County girls 5 to 7.

Registration forms must be signed by the girls' parents.

The programs are at:

Buley Community Center, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Aug. 9; Wee Wisdom, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, through Aug. 17; United Day Care, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays through Aug. 17.

Muncie YMCA noon to 1 p.m. (ages 12 to 17) and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (ages 6 to 11) on Wednesdays through Aug. 5; and Morningside Park 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays through Aug. 5.

For more information call (800) 686-6465.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Writers, photographers and graphic artists can share their talents and get published on a new Indiana-based World Wide Web site providing inspiration, enrichment and entertainment for younger Christian adults and families. Guidelines, policies and content needs can be found online at [www.faithtoday.com](http://www.faithtoday.com) (click on "About you").

E-Mail [twbuck@faithtoday.com](mailto:twbuck@faithtoday.com).

Editorial mailing address: FaithToday.com, P.O. Box 1376, Anderson, Ind. 46015-1376. Fax, 578-9499, Phone (765) 649-8931.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Oakhurst Gardens has a Saturday junior naturalists programs through July 31.

The program is designed for kids in grades 6 to 8 and meets each Saturday.

For more information call 282-4848.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Birds in Flight exhibit at Oakhurst Gardens will be on display through Sept. 4.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Ball State Summer Theatre will present "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at 8 p.m. July 16 to 18, on the lawn of Minnetrista Cultural Center.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

The Reaching Across Cultures and Investing in a Successful Muncie (RACISM) and Delaware County work group has been meeting to develop a short term project.

Group chair is Sally McLaren.

For more information about RACISM a part of TEAMwork for Quality Living, call (765) 741-7158.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Open Door Community Services, Inc., and the Horizon Convention Center will sponsor a city-wide Trash and Treasure rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 7.

Table rental is \$10. Call (765) 281-4257.



Six graduating seniors are all smiles as they hold awards presented them at the 13th annual Cotillion Beautillion. From left are Dejuan Branson, Pamela Johnson-Walker, Trish Smith, Eddie Robinson II, Richard Ivy and Clythell Branson.



From left are Judy Motley, Emma Sue Davis, Pearl Cleaves, Barbara Gasper Hines Esq., Lillie Marshall, Sally McLaren, Bertha Mason, Eliza Branson, Melissa French, Ruth Ann Blair, Thelma Greene, Ruth Reed and Ella McNeary, Linda Branson. Seated are Julia Duerson, Mary Dollison, Wilma Ferguson and Daisy Toomer.



JOHNSON

Richard  
Rita  
Cynthia  
Jeffrey  
David  
Stephen  
Anna



MADISON

Juanita

ORR

Patricia



ROBERTS

Sedley



JOLLY

Alonzo  
Carol  
Damon



McCOY

Royal  
Florina  
Angela  
Howard

PATTERSON

Pearlie  
Corlando  
Chrystal  
Telisa



ROBERTSON

Lee Guyer, Sr.  
Myrna  
Lee Guyer, Jr.  
Asuani



JOLLY

Thelma  
PRITCHARD  
Rebecca



McNEARY

Edward  
Ella

PATTON

Helen



SANDERS

Gatewood  
Bessie



JONES

Mary L.



McPEEK

Charles  
Betty  
Betsy  
Edward  
Lanna  
Steven  
Anissa

PIRTLE

Bobby, Sr.  
Beverly  
Bobby, Jr.  
Stephenie  
Stephen



SMITH

Denise



JONES

Paul  
Jo Frances  
Gary  
Gregory  
Angelo



NAVARRO

Joseph  
Mary

POWERS

Olena



SMITH

Mrs. Jimmie Dee



LAYNE

Diane



OLDEN

Clezell  
Lamonte  
Leonard

REYNOLDS

Olee



SMITH

Thompson, Jr.





Under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. J.C. Williams the Trinity United Methodist Church has become a widely known community institution. They were successful in converting the Whitely Church into the Whitely Community Center. They organized the M.L. King Communication-Education Center, the Trinity Outreach Program, the Black Bag Shoppe, The Muncie Black Coalition and the Black Coalition Choir.

Trinity's Tavern Ministry has served as a model for community betterment and unity between the races in this area and particularly across the State. The Vocational Motivation program developed, conceived and projected through the Trinity Outreach program has been used by the Indiana Employment Division as a means to encourage disadvantaged people to look toward the various trades, higher education and the various other skilled, semi-skilled and professional jobs.

The Outreach Program has developed a community volunteer training program which is known by its commitment and output. These community workers are skilled in defining and interpreting the problems, the abilities and the mystique of blacks and other cultural groups.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1980, Box 31, Folder 19, Hurley C. papers  
1963-2005, Ball State University Archives and Special Collections, Ball State Libraries.



## House passes abuse bill, 54-45, after suspension of voting rule

DN Legislative Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana House of Representatives passed the controversial Child Abuse Bill by a vote of 54-45 Wednesday.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Dennis Avery, (D-Evansville), passed its final test after lengthy debate, with many representatives speaking for or against the proposed bill.

The bill which was up for third reading on Tuesday was not called up by Avery because he was short five votes for passage. Speaker of the House Phillip Bainbridge, (D-Highland), held the vote open until the missing representatives could be called to vote. Republican floor leaders called for a tabulation of the vote, knowing that immediate count of the votes would kill the bill.

When Bainbridge did call for the vote and the final tabulation was given several House members stood and applauded.

The bill will consolidate existing child abuse related statutes and establish an agency in each county to deal with abused children and their parents. The bill will also allow children to testify against their parents in cases concerning child abuse.

The bill now moves to the Senate where it will once again go through a tough fight. Avery pointed out that the Senate might also have to suspend its rules concerning first, second and third readings in order for the bill to reach the Governor, in time for his signature.

In other action taken by the House;

— A bill that would prohibit the selling of carbonated beverages in plastic bottles passed by a vote of 53-36

— By a vote of 76-21 the House passed a proposed overhaul of the Indiana

Criminal Code. This was called a priority by Governor Otis Bowen.

The Senate yesterday passed a bill which will allow police officers to give a Breathalyzer tests immediately after stopping suspected drunken drivers. The driver does have the right to refuse the test given by the police officer in favor of a test at the police station.

Residents of Brayton and Clevenger Halls were evacuated Tuesday night when a bomb threat was phoned in at 6:47.

Brayton Hall director, Vicki French, received a call saying there was a bomb on fifth floor Brayton. The fire alarm was pulled to evacuate the residents. This is not the proper procedure for a bomb threat, according to Thomas Osborn, director of Traffic and Safety, but "someone panicked."

Further information is currently being withheld. Osborn said, "In the interest of those living in the complex, I'd be reluctant to publicize the incident." He believes extensive publicity could provoke further threats.

He views the job of Lt. Governor as one concerning itself with long range planning in the state. Teague added that as Secretary of Commerce he would seek to maintain the industrial tax base in Indiana and try to welcome

service oriented companies to the state.

Teague told the people gathered that he would not comment on the job the current Lt. Governor has done. "Since Robert Orr is president of the Senate, I will not criticize his programs or policies until after the General Assembly session ends."

Teague felt that the state should lower its surplus in the budget and use

### Bomb threat clears Brayton Tuesday night

Residents of Brayton and Clevenger Halls were evacuated Tuesday night when a bomb threat was phoned in at 6:47.

Brayton Hall director, Vicki French, received a call saying there was a bomb on fifth floor Brayton. The fire alarm was pulled to evacuate the residents. This is not the proper procedure for a bomb threat, according to Thomas Osborn, director of Traffic and Safety, but "someone panicked."

Further information is currently being withheld. Osborn said, "In the interest of those living in the complex, I'd be reluctant to publicize the incident." He believes extensive publicity could provoke further threats.

He views the job of Lt. Governor as one concerning itself with long range planning in the state. Teague added that as Secretary of Commerce he would seek to maintain the industrial tax base in Indiana and try to welcome



### Historic family

## Teague announces candidacy

State Senator Thomas Teague, D-Madison, announced Wednesday morning that he is a candidate for the office of Lt. Governor in the May Democratic Primary.

Teague, who made his announcement before an enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Anderson City Building, told his followers that he was concerned with what direction government was taking in Indiana.

"It is time for the people of Indiana to give the Democratic Party a chance to show what it can do for the state," Teague said. "The Democratic Party is the party of the future in Indiana."

He views the job of Lt. Governor as one concerning itself with long range planning in the state. Teague added that as Secretary of Commerce he would seek to maintain the industrial tax base in Indiana and try to welcome

The five Ball brothers, Muncie industrialists, who gave two buildings on 64 acres to the State of Indiana in 1918 are, left to right, George A. Ball, Dr. Lucius L. Ball,

Frank C. Ball, Edmund B. Ball and William C. Ball. These historical pictures are being periodically run during the Bicentennial.

Frank C. Ball, Edmund B. Ball and William C. Ball. These historical pictures are being periodically run during the Bicentennial.

### Inside

- The third in a series of articles on birth control at Ball State, p.5.
- Ball State will host the first Mini-MAC swim meet this weekend. For the details, turn to p. 6.

### Outside

- Partly sunny today with highs in the low to mid 30s. Partly cloudy tonight with lows in the low to mid 20s. Mostly cloudy and warmer Friday with highs in the mid to upper 20s.

## For national dues

# SS questions Richey on \$250 from SA budget

By PAUL DITLINGER  
Staff Reporter

A short question and answer session between Student Association President Stan Richey and members of Student Senate concerning the Student Association (SA) budget highlighted the Student Senate meeting Wednesday.

In other action, the Senate voted to pass an amendment to the Student Association By-laws that would create a community affairs board. Also, four other bills were passed into second reading next week.

The brief examination of the SA budget began with a question from one of the senators directed to Richey concerning where an extra \$250 for National Student Association dues came from.

"Out of the SA budget," was Richey's first reply. But when asked to name precisely where the money came from, he added it was taken from the other allocations.

Richey was again pressed for a more exact answer. Finally he said, "I'll have to ask Judy (Judy Chapman SA

treasurer) where she took it from." Richey added she (Chapman) subtracted the money out of the total budget and so "probably doesn't know where it came from."

Richey next was asked if it was true, that, the "true" remaining monies totals listed with the other allocations were not actually known. Richey replied, "yes," but added none of the allocations of the SA bureaus were tapped. He emphasized the money was taken only out of the general SA budget which consists mainly of operating expenses.

The questions came to an end after Richey promised to find out what is the actual state of the money remaining in the budget.

At Wednesday's meeting the Senate also held the first readings of four bills, three sponsored by Mark Bibler.

Commenting on his bill 19-20, which would set up a University Senate Reform Committee, Bibler warned that the Senate had done nothing to implement the "University Senate Bill," which called for "more equitable student representation" in Faculty Senate.

## Ford loses first battle of Congressional session

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford lost his first battle of the 1976 session with the Democratic Congress on a spending issue Wednesday.

The Senate, by a comfortable 70-24 margin, joined the House in overriding Ford's veto of a \$45 billion money bill and thus enacted it into law. The House

rejected the veto Tuesday 310 to 113.

The appropriations measure carries funds for politically popular health, welfare and job programs, but it is almost \$1 billion over the President's budget request.

Senate Republicans split almost evenly on the override, with 17 opposing the President and 18 supporting him. However, 53 Democrats voted to reject his veto, while only 6 backed it.

The over-all result was a margin of seven more than the two-thirds needed to kill a veto.

Ford said the measure would "contribute to excessive deficits and needless inflationary pressures."

It would increase the federal payroll by 8,000 people, he said, commenting: "I find it difficult to believe the majority of the American people favor increasing the number of employees on the federal payroll."

Sen. Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts, Republican manager of the bill, answered the President's arguments by declaring it was only 2.6 per cent over his budget "which was woefully inadequate to begin with."

Brooke said that, if the veto were sustained, there would be inadequate personnel to enforce the industrial health and safety law, important biomedical research programs would be impeded, funds for training of mental health professionals would be cut, the maternal and child health program would be slashed, and many other services would be reduced.

"We've got to get busy and work," admonished Bibler.

Another Bibler-sponsored bill, Bill 19-21, proposed the creation of a Student Senate Legislative Committee. Bibler said the committee would do lobbying for the Senate bills and would inform Senate members of the fates of those and other bills in Faculty Senate. He said his bill "would implement Student Senate powers more."

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Acting at the request of both sides, a federal judge abruptly closed jury selection in the Patricia Hearst bank robbery trial to the press and most of the public Wednesday.

The unexpected secrecy, believed to be without precedent in this federal court district, was imposed only moments after U.S. District Court Judge Oliver J. Carter invited "the ladies and gentlemen of the press" to follow him from the main trial room to an adjoining courtroom, where he questioned potential jurors about their exposure to publicity in the celebrated case.

By the time the closed-door session was recessed for lunch, one prospect, a woman, had been excused and questioning of a second was under way, attorneys reported. They said the remainder of the selection process would be closed to the more than 100

reporters on hand for the trial of the once-fugitive heiress.

Both sides agreed it was unlikely that a panel would be seated by the end of the day, as predicted Tuesday by Carter. Forty prospective jurors were excused on the first day of the trial, and the battalion of reporters had expected to witness the second phase of questioning of 36 of the remaining 74 candidates.

But when the newsmen and women, many of whom have reserved seats for the trial, trooped to the second courtroom, the door was locked. Soon, a U.S. marshal emerged and announced, "The judge has decided to exclude the press."

No members of the public were allowed inside the smaller courtroom,

except for Miss Hearst's parents, her sister Vicki and Lynda Bailey, wife of chief defense counsel F. Lee Bailey.

U.S. Atty. James L. Browning said during the lunch recess that the motion for exclusion was offered by the defense and joined by the government. He said the defense objected to questioning of potential jurors about media influence before the jury was sequestered.

"It wouldn't make much sense to question them in private if you were going to tell them what they weren't supposed to hear," Bailey told reporters.

Lawyers in criminal trials occasionally request private questioning of individual jury prospects in the judge's chambers if the topic being discussed is considered sensitive. But attendance at such sessions usually is limited to principals in the case — the defendant, defense attorneys and prosecutors.

All four of the bills in first reading were passed into second reading at next week's meeting.

Only one bill, Bill 18-3, underwent second reading. The bill, actually an amendment to the SA By-laws sponsored by Jim Mendenhall, called for the creation of a community affairs board to aid the present external affairs board in its duties on the local level. Mendenhall said the bill would

"establish a better working relationship with the Muncie City Council" and would provide more communication between students and the Council.

After a short discussion, the bill was passed unanimously. Mark Bibler, chairman of the Student Senate investigative committee, Jodi Taylor, John Broome, Rick Clark, Boyd Poisel and Jim Mendenhall for his committee. The nominations were approved.

## Dining service heads listen

# Students state food complaints

BY FRAN BREEDLOVE  
AND

CHARLENE MIREs

Staff Reporters

Supervisors of Ball State University's residence hall dining service have been meeting with residents of Studebaker complex to hear complaints about Studebaker West's food service.

Studebaker residents have complained of illnesses due to spoiled foods. They also said that the food was often cold or greasy, had little or no taste and there is no variety in the daily menus.

"We'd like to get a change in the variety," said Dan Grinstead, a Palmer Hall resident. For example, he said that residents were served mashed potatoes twice a day every day.

Grinstead added that residents had tried to talk to dining service personnel but they "sort of shrug us off everytime we try to go down and talk to them."

Another Palmer Hall resident, Jim Hook, noted that the lack of variety was not the fault of the dining service personnel, because meals are planned by a central menu planning committee.

This was confirmed by Ellen Nicholson, manager of residence hall dining services, who said although there are no students on the planning committee, its meetings are open to anyone. She said a few students have attended meetings of the committee, but not regularly.

Residents of Studebaker believed that cold food was caused by a lack of warming facilities in the dining service.

However, Nicholson said she did not believe there was a serious lack of facilities since Studebaker is one of the newer buildings on campus. Nicholson added that the problem of cold food could have been caused by a temporary breakdown in equipment.

Nicholson said it was likely that cold food could have been caused by individual mechanical failures. She added that all of Studebaker's equipment had been checked and presently is in good working order.

According to Nicholson, cold weather could be a contributing factor in cold food. She also said that if a student talked before eating his meal, the food could have cooled off considerably.

Nicholson said, "Anytime students have a concern (with the dining service), we feel they should contact us."

Ella McNeary, unit manager of the Studebaker dining service, and Nicholson met with Studebaker residents last Friday in an attempt to settle some of their concerns about the Studebaker dining service.

"Supervisors try to do a good job, but human nature can err occasionally," said Nicholson. She added that dining service personnel are doing everything they can to help students with their individual problems.

Nicholson said the complaints she has received are just individual problems and not an extensive problem. She thinks everything is okay now.

At this point, Studebaker residents are looking into their chances of getting warmer food, better menus and better food quality.

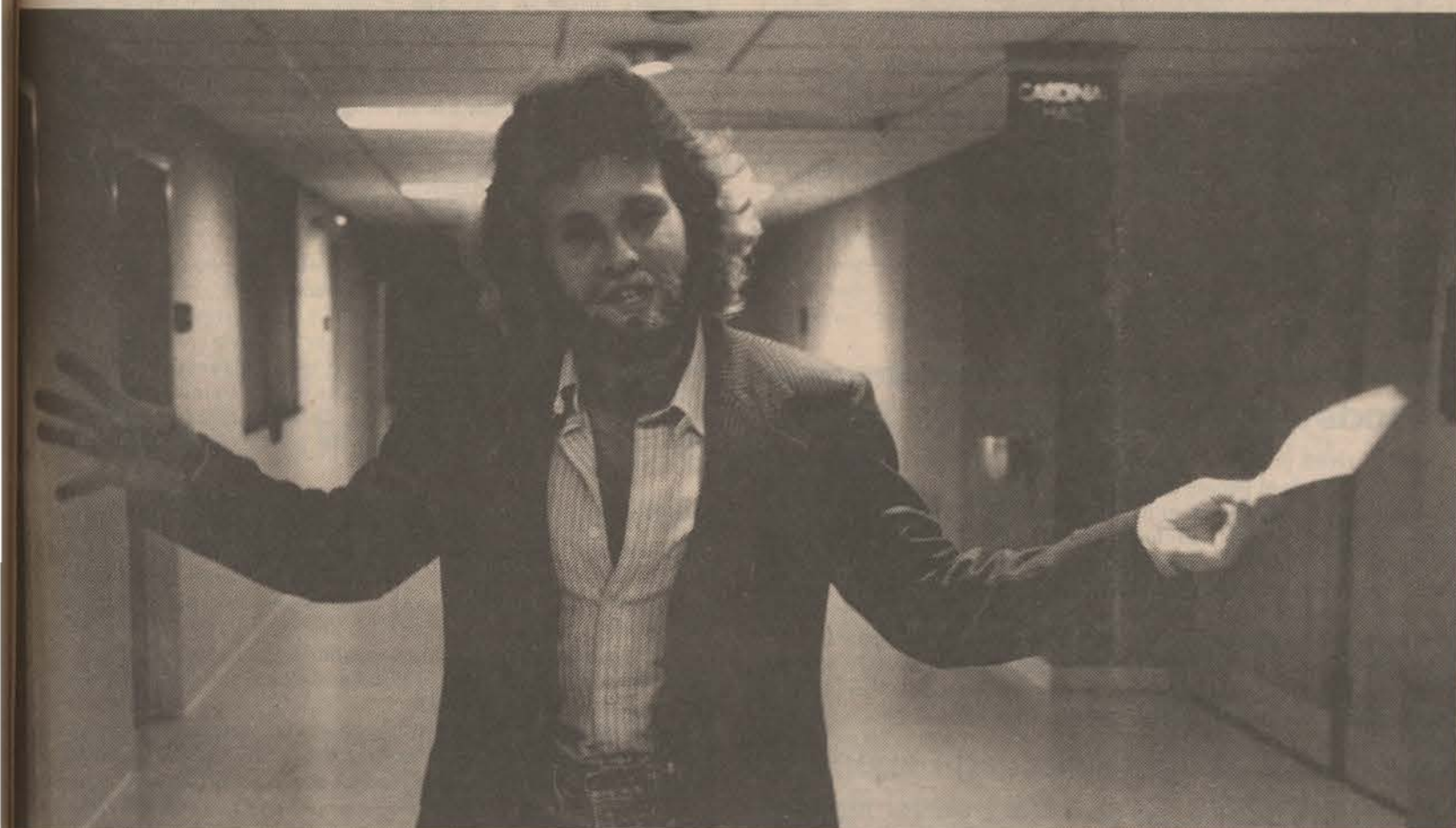


ball state

# daily news

10 cents off campus

Tuesday April 15, 1980 Vol. 59 No. 130



Michael Looper celebrated his Student Association win Monday night after collecting 65 percent of the votes. Looper defeated Tammy McCoige in the runoff election, 1,214 to 666. (photo by Terry Clark)

## Looper slate wins election

by Beth Sharpe

The slate of Michael Looper captured 65 percent in Monday's Student Association runoff election to defeat the slate of opponent Tammy McCoige.

Looper's slate received 1,214 votes of 1,880 cast. McCoige's slate tallied 666 votes.

The vote breakdown was Looper-305, McCoige-138 at the Student Center; Looper-313, McCoige-171 at LaFollette Complex; Looper-256, McCoige-149 at the Scramble Light; Looper-175, McCoige-99 at Cooper Science Building and Looper-165, McCoige-109 at University Hall.

Looper's slate consisted of Michael Williams, vice president; Susan Faulkner, treasurer and Gay Goodman, secretary. McCoige's slate consisted of Terry Wood, vice president; Scot Baird, treasurer and Bobbie Ennis, secretary.

An amendment was also passed, 899 to 239, making all SA department heads ex officio members of Student Senate. Ex officio members have all privileges of senators except voting rights.

Looper previously said the first thing he would like to do if elected is eliminate the inaugural dinner. If the money was already spent, he said he would promise such an event would not occur next year.

"There's no way you can take the (inauguration) money back," Looper said after the election. "We'll take the honor gracefully."

Looper said there is a valid point behind the dinner, but suggested the people being honored at least pay part of the cost.

"I think the priority was a little shaky," he said. "The students have a right to expect the service they get out of their senators."

Looper said he would prefer to spend the money on something that would benefit the entire student body, such as orientation for next year's off campus freshmen.

Looper said he was not really surprised by election results.

"I think the vote shows that they can relate to me. I won the election by getting out and getting people to vote. I made contact with them physically," he said.

"I think the vote shows that they can relate to me. I won the election by getting out and getting people to vote."

--Michael Looper

"One thing that hurt Tammy was Studebaker Complex was closed for voting. I think that had some affect," he said.

Looper said his age and marital status will not affect his job. "This is a commitment, even though it was rather sudden," he said.

Defeated presidential candidate Tammy McCoige said, "I still want to be involved, but like Greg (Fehribach, current SA president) and I said, it's going to be hard, since we were officers, to intrude in a new administration."

"It's weird. After all our differences and all, he (Fehribach) had the most comforting words," she said.

"We did have a halfway decent year," McCoige said of this year's Student Association. "We got things done, but we were caught in our own differences."

## Carter's demands puzzle allies

LONDON (AP) — Western European governments, which are under pressure from Washington to join the U.S. sanctions against Iran, expressed puzzlement Monday about President Carter's "deadline" for them to act.

Official sources in most European capitals said they had received no specific date.

Only British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Carter's most enthusiastic supporter of tough action on Iran, offered quick formal words of support. But even she said no date had been received.

In a television interview with European correspondents, broadcast Sunday, Carter said he had given friendly governments a "specific date" by which Washington expected her allies to join in economic sanctions. He said the United States imposed sanctions and severed diplomatic relations with Iran last week after failure of negotiations to free the American hostages who have been held in Tehran since militants took over the U.S. Embassy there Nov. 4.

West European leaders planned to consult with their recalled envoys from Tehran in anticipation of next Monday's meeting in Luxembourg of

European Economic Community foreign ministers. Iran will be discussed then.

Mrs. Thatcher told the House of Commons on Monday that the Western allies were conferring urgently and should make a decision on joint action at the meeting next Monday.

"Our job is to show our support to the American people and to President Carter," she said.

She added, however, that Carter had not given Britain a deadline by which to make a decision. "We have not been set a date by which our American allies want us to act," Mrs. Thatcher said.

Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington told the House of Lords that Britain would have to consult with its European Economic Community partners before reaching a final decision on sanctions.

Dutch Prime Minister A.A. Maria Van Agt, traveling in India, said that although America's allies are unhappy with the United States taking unilateral decisions on the Iranian crisis, they should support its stand, the United News of India reported.

Advisory remains in effect

## Contamination still present

by Kevin Hogg

Water Works officials, despite round the clock testing and coliform-clear water samples taken Monday, are still baffled as to the actual source of the sporadic contamination.

As of late Monday evening officials were still "strongly advising" that all customers, including Ball State University, boil all water before drinking.

The second testing of water samples taken early Sunday confirmed the wisdom of the boil water advisory," Water Works manager Brock Earnhardt told the **Daily News**.

Yesterday's testing revealed high coliform levels in water samples. Today's samples were clean of any coliforms.

Coliforms are bacteria which are harmless to humans but are indicators of more harmful bacteria in the water.

The Water Works is currently testing pipelines in a specific area near the plant, but Earnhardt refused to give an exact location for fear that residents outside the area would feel safe.

"What people don't realize is that these lines feed the entire system," said Earnhardt. "Everyone is affected."

Earnhardt said that as far as he could determine the current situation was unique to Muncie. No other city in the nation has ever had

erratic test results where coliforms will appear, disappear, and then reappear in water samples taken.

Earnhardt also said chlorine levels in the water were currently double normal strength used to disinfect the city's water supply.

"What we have is where both coliforms and chlorine are present in samples taken. What should be happening is that the coliforms consume the chlorine or the opposite effect when the chlorine consumes the coliforms," said Earnhardt.

The Water Works has identified a form of the coliforms that is highly resistant to chlorine, said Earnhardt. The Water Works' laboratories are currently trying to find a level of chlorine to kill the strain, he said.

The dilemma has received attention from the national media. Earnhardt said he had been contacted by both ABC and CBS news and local TV stations.

Locally, residents and restaurants have learned to cope with the problem.

John Towriss, manager of the One Accord restaurant told the **Daily News** that all water being used in both cooking and drinking is boiled then chilled before given to customers. Soft drinks are being served from cans and ice is being brought in from out of town.

Towriss said the restaurant was operating "as normal as possible"

and "things were being taken one step at a time."

An employee of Clara's Pizza King said business had picked up from normal and that signs had been posted throughout the dining area letting patrons know what the restaurant was doing to cope with the situation.

Residence hall dining services are boiling all water and serving no soft drinks (which are made from a base syrup and water) to students. Menus have been cut in a 'safety first' attitude. Additional supplies of milk are being bought and each hall has received 100 gallons of pasteurized water for drinking, a Johnson Complex dining hall supervisor told the **Daily News**. She also said most problems in the normal procedures were minor and that students were very helpful in keeping conflicts to a minimum.

Students themselves seemed to be adjusting well to the lack of drinking water.

"We called the Water Works to find out if we could take showers and wash," said Patricia Hopkins, a Crosley Hall resident. "They told us that was OK. I usually drink a lot of water so I am extremely aware of what's going on."

"I think it's really dumb to tell us we can't drink the water and then we can," said one student who asked not to be identified. "Now we can't again. The whole thing is really stupid."



Ella McNeary manager of Studebaker Food Service, boils some of the water used in the residence hall dining service. All the food services are boiling their water because of the water contamination. (photo by Tyler Klassen)

## SA dinner to be boycotted?

by Beth Sharpe

Several student senators have discussed the possibility of boycotting tonight's inaugural dinner and dance sponsored by Student Association election board, said John Mazurkiewicz, Off Campus Association senator.

As of last night, Mazurkiewicz said he had not decided whether he would boycott the event. He said he could see its value, as a "thank you for being involved" to senators.

"I don't really think it's right that we're spending money to feed us," he said. "People who stood out there in the cold and rain (working at SA polling sites) are not getting

anything but a thank you."

The dinner begins at 7 p.m. in Cardinal Hall. Senators and guests were invited. The dance begins at 9 p.m. in Cardinal Hall and is open to the public at no cost, Blume said.

"That's another way for people to meet whoever wins," she said.

"There's a difference between standing out in the rain or cold for 45 minutes (as a poll worker) and showing up several hours per week for meetings like senators do," said Phil Pyne.

Out of \$1,600 allocated to the election board, \$60 was spent for the video tape, \$300 went to the **Daily News** for advertising and a

total of \$117.50 was spent on ballot printing costs, Blume said.

"We cut a lot of corners and got the turnout we did for only \$477," said Phil Pyne, election board chairman.

Catering for tonight's dinner will run \$800, invitations cost \$57.90 and music costs will be \$300. Money to cover budget deficits will be appropriated through the special projects fund, he said.

Paying polling volunteers would have used the entire budget, Blume said.

"Since when do you pay people to do a civic service?" asked Pyne.

inside

### A Brave choice

Sports editor Kyle Kreiger visited Cincinnati Saturday to see the Reds remain undefeated. But the devout Yankees fans wanted to see the Atlanta Braves win Saturday, as well as the National League Western Division. Also see what pitcher Frank Pastore and outfielder Dave Collins said before the game on page 7.

outside

### Rainy day

Occasional light rain and snow ending this morning, clearing by afternoon. High in the mid to upper 40s. Clear and unseasonably cold tonight. Lows in the upper 20s to low 30s. Sunny and warmer Wednesday. Highs in the upper 40s to low 50s.



# Edric McNeary: I want to be U.S. President

By Judy Mays

Edric A. McNeary, 23, a Ball State University student who will graduate in December with a degree in marketing, for the past 3 years has been a teller at American National Bank.

"I needed to do an internship before graduation and when I talked to my supervisor, one was created for me at the bank," he said.

McNeary said his internship included writing press releases and developing projects to attract student checking accounts and working on what the bank can do to better serve the minority community. He said a big focus with student checking accounts is teaching children at an early age financial responsibility.

"You need all the practice you can get," he said.

So far McNeary has been involved with a read-a-thon sponsored by Motivate Our Minds (MOMS), a tutoring service for at risk youth and he's spoken about education to a Youth Service Bureau.

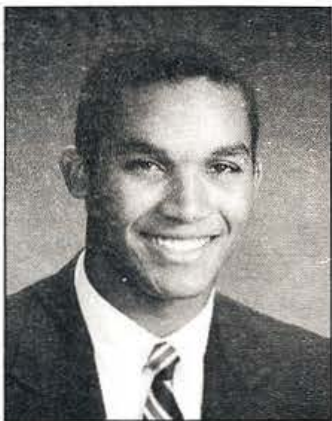
Another project took McNeary to Ball State. "The goal was to get students to open up checking accounts. We put fliers and set up a tent in front of the Student Union building on campus," said McNeary. "We gave away free pizzas and there was a raffle for two dorm freezers."

After his internship ends, he will continue to be a bank teller.

"I love my job tremendously. I enjoy the people I work with and the people I meet," he said.

"I can hardly believe I only have 17 weeks before I graduate." Will he remain in Muncie after graduation? McNeary said "I have a plan A and a plan B. The plans are based on my four goals, which are modeling, acting, owning a business and becoming the president of the United States."

"My goals reflect what I believe to be my god-given purpose: to impact the lives of many people in a positive way on a national or global level. If I remain in Muncie, I would continue to work with the NAACP. I am currently coordinator for youth membership and college recruits. I'd like to see a more active membership.



"I'd also like to work to promote continued education for high school students and be a positive role model in my hometown.

"But, there are so many reasons to stay as well, as to go. "I feel I'd like to spread my wings. Chicago is a possibility. I've already been offered the chance to model by a professional agency there."

"I know God will help me make the right decision when the time comes."

McNeary, a member of Theta Chi fraternity, has been involved in student government at Ball State for the past 2 years. He was chairman of the Diversity and Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee and of the off Campus Caucus, ran for vice president of the student body and became director of the Diversity and Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee.

He was also the parliamentarian for the Black Student Association, coordinator of the social evaluation team and came in the top 10 two years in a row when running for homecoming king.

McNeary is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church.

"Back in the day, I sang in the choir and was on the usher board," he said. "I try to be a very positive person. I like to trigger a response in people, to motivate them to their own good end."

"I want to be able to duplicate what I've done at BSU on a global level. Whatever I do, wherever I go, I want to die knowing that I've never said, what if?"

He is the son of Ed and Ella McNeary.

# MALLPerKS<sup>®</sup>

for

# MARSH<sup>®</sup>

Fresh I-D-E-A Customers

## Good News

For Marsh Fresh I-D-E-A Card holders. Now you can get a free MALLPerKS Membership a (\$5 Value) that lets you earn MALLPerKS points -good for great discounts on travel, mall merchandise and specialty items at Marsh Supermarkets. Sign up and start earning points today.\*

## It's Easy

Visit any participating MALLPerKS mall or stop by any Marsh Supermarket and pick up a MALLPerKS application. Return your completed application to a participating MALLPerKS mall, show your Fresh I-D-E-A Card and get a FREE MALLPerKS membership. Then start earning MALLPerKS points when you shop at MALLPerKS malls or Marsh Supermarkets.



## With Your MARSH<sup>®</sup> Fresh I-D-E-A Card<sup>®</sup>

Now you can also earn MALLPerKS points when you shop at Marsh. Each time you shop, have your Fresh I-D-E-A Card scanned, then take your Marsh receipt to the Customer Service Center at a participating MALLPerKS Mall. Each dollar you spend at Marsh\* earns you a MALLPerKS point that can be redeemed at any participating mall for certificates for great discounts. Visit the mall and pick up a MALLPerKS Reward Portfolio for a complete list of these exciting offers.

**Shop at Marsh and Earn  
MALLPerKS Points  
Good for Discounts on Travel,  
Mall Merchandise and Specialty  
Items at Marsh.  
Redeemable at any of these  
participating MALLPerKS malls.**

Castleton Square Mall • Circle Centre • College Mall •  
Greenwood Park Mall • The Fashion Mall  
at Keystone at the Crossing • Lafayette Square Mall  
Markland Mall • Mounds Mall • Muncie Mall  
• Richmond Square • Tippecanoe Mall • Washington Square Mall



\* Visit the Customer Service Center at any participating MALLPerKS Mall for complete terms and conditions.

SIMON  
DEBARTOLO  
GROUP

**MARSH<sup>®</sup>**  
Visit us on the web at [www.marsh.net](http://www.marsh.net)



## Ella McNeary:

# 'Muncie not close to realizing dream'



**I Have A Dream**

"If anyone had questioned how deeply the summer's activities had penetrated the consciousness of white America, the answer was evident in the treatment accorded the march on Washington by all the media of communication. Normally negro activities are the object of attention in the press only when they are likely to lead to some dramatic outbreak, or possess some bizarre quality. The march was the first organized negro operation that was accorded respect and coverage commensurate with its importance.

The millions who viewed it on television were seeing an event historic not only because of the subject but because it was being brought into their homes."

An excerpt from "The Autobiography Of Martin Luther King, Jr."

Ella McNeary, membership chairwoman of the NAACP said that Muncie still has quite a ways to go to realizing Dr. King's dream. She said that there's still prevalent racial discrimination in Muncie, and that his dream for justice for all has not yet been realized either.

McNeary said black people and poor people don't receive equal justice when entering the court system. According to McNeary, she really doesn't feel that there is much unity between the two communities in Muncie. "I think that we are possibly united when we are together, but when we go back to our individual homes or our designated communities, we're not united," said McNeary.

"We're not really united in the churches," said McNeary. "It's nice to

have a unity service in the community one a year, but it is better to have a unity service once a month. I'd like to see the day come when we don't have to plan a unity service because we've all gotten so comfortable with one another that we don't have to plan a unity service."

McNeary said that she'd like to see it become an automatic thing where the black and white community unites to the point that blacks don't feel out of place going to a predominately white church and whites don't feel out of place attending a predominately black church.

"I'm hoping that people of any ethnic background would get to a place where they would attend any church in Muncie," said McNeary.

McNeary said that she's no longer out there in the community to really know whether the communities are united behind the same causes, but she did say that she helps the two communities get along by encouraging white membership as well as black membership in the NAACP.

"I have made a conscience effort to

be involved in several organizations in the city, for example, the YWCA and the Delaware County Coordinating Council to prevent

drug and alcohol abuse. My being involved in those organizations has helped whites to relate more to blacks," said McNeary.

"Very important because God created all of us equal, I feel that He wants all of us to work together and to live together in harmony as brothers and sisters." McNeary said that she plans to continue to encourage white membership in the NAACP because it's for all people, whatever their ethnic background might be.

McNeary is going to continue to serve on committees and boards and some of the organizations in the city.



*Gifts that will last a lifetime?*

**Give a diamond but...**

**Share His Dream**

In honor of Dr. Martin  
Luther King, Jr.,

A true gem among men



**Black &  
Company**  
Fine Jewelers

Tony Black, Proprietor  
800 E. McGalliard  
(765) 282-8310

*If the legacy of Dr. King is to endure it will be because people like you and I commit ourselves to the human agenda which speaks to the needs of people. But fundamentally it will endure because we believe with a passion that every man, woman and child is "somebody" and, therefore, worthy of our respect.*



**Muncie  
Human Rights  
Commission**

*Phyllis Bartleson, Executive Director*



# History Month Chance to Remember Those Who Made a Difference

(from pg. 13)

decided to open a clinic to serve the needs of the indigent at the Gateway Christian Center.

As the health coordinator, she canvassed those low-income individuals needing health care assistance, and with the aid of Ball Brothers (now Ball Corp.) identified gaps in community services. Kizer then began to organize the clinic.

Kizer, a native of Portsmouth, Va., was born Sep. 26, 1920. She is the daughter of Walter and Georgia Williams, the oldest of five children. Her brothers are Osborne, Leon and Walter, and her sister is Clarine.

She graduated from Portsmouth High School and attended the School of Nursing at the Medical College of Richmond, Virginia. After graduation she accepted a commission in the Army Nurse Corps for 4 years during WWII, spending 17 months in the European Theatre.

While in the service, she married Carl Kizer on Aug. 13, 1943 at Fort Bragg, N.C. After leaving the service, they moved to Muncie. They are the parents of four children: two girls, Carlease and Deborah, and two boys, Carl, Jr. and Walter.

Kizer attended Ball State University, receiving her bachelor's degree in nursing education in 1953. She worked for Ball Memorial Hospital for 13 years. After leaving Ball Hospital, she worked for the Visiting Nurse Association for 2 years. She later became a health coordinator for Action, Inc. She was the first black licensed nurse to become a school nurse in Muncie.

Kizer was president of Gateway Clinic and is now its treasurer. She was recognized for distinguished service to her community by Beta Sigma Phi as First

Lady of the Year in 1970.

The same year, she was honored by her church, Calvary Baptist, as Mother of the Year. In addition to her church membership, she serves on the board of directors for the Visiting Nurse Association, serves the Huffer Day Care Center and the Huffer Day Care Contest, belongs to the Flower Guild, and is a member of the usher board.

## Ella Louise McNeary

The registered dietician and manager of the residence hall dining service at Ball State, Ella McNeary is the only black dietician in the city of Muncie.



Ella graduated from Florida A&M University of Miami Valley, A.D.A. and earned her M.A. at Ball State University. She is from Tallahassee, Fla. and grew up in a family of 10. McNeary said she was fortunate to be from a family that sent all 10 children to college and had them all graduate.

She was hired in 1967 as a dietician and the first black in the home economics department at Ball State. "I was also the second of three black dieticians who worked on the Ball Hospital staff," she said.

"My work at the hospital was rewarding; I felt as though I was helping someone. I also taught nursing students diet therapy, nursing nutrition and manage-

ment." She likes home nursing most of all. McNeary is on the following committees and organizations: American Dietetic Association; Indiana Dietetic Association of East Central Indiana; Coalition of 100 Women; NAACP; State and American Dietetic; National Association of Colleges; University Food Service, Indiana; National Restaurant Service Association; and American Home Economics Association.

She is married to Edward McNeary and they have one son, Edric.

## Doris Faulkner Stewart

Presently, Doris is Director of Fine Arts for the Muncie Community Schools, which she has served many years by helping children and young people in music and the arts. Other services she has performed in the Muncie Community include the establishment of the Edgar Faulkner Mortuary in 1952, owned by her and her husband. They also established the Faulkner Nursing Home because they were concerned for old people in Muncie without homes or family.



Doris has always been active in music, theater and choir throughout her years teaching at Central, Northside and in the community. She became Director of Music and Arts in 1981, the first black director for that Muncie Schools program. Also, she has coordinated the Muncie

Community Christmas Sing since 1981. Doris was the second black to teach in Muncie.

"I was always active in church and music circles; I helped to coordinate the Thanksgiving Festival for Christian Ministries of Delaware County," she added.

Throughout the years, Doris has been very active in matinee music and has had many award winning music groups for the Indiana Music Association and musical contests. She was the organizer of the Muncie Community Schools Elementary Honors Choir.

Doris coordinated music, choral and instrumental music in kindergarten through twelfth grades. She has been Minister of Music at Bethel A.M.E. Church and is currently Director of Music at the Riverside United Methodist Church.

Doris was born in Humboldt, Tennessee and is the daughter of Louis and Bracillian Day. She came to Muncie at an early age and attended school here, graduating with honors from high school. She also taught at Longfellow and Blaine Elementary Schools, McKinley Junior High, Central and Northside High Schools. She received her B.A. degree and masters in music at Ball State. She did further study at Boston University and Butler University.

Doris is a member and vice-president of the Coalition of 100 Women, member of Matinee Musicale, the Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Development of Indiana, Lucille Williams Federation of Clubs, Delta Kappa Gamma and Mu Phi Epsilon, a music honorary. They received an educational award from the Muncie Blacks Community Group, and an Outstanding Education Award from Women

in Communication of East Central Indiana in 1987. She is one of the founders of the Jack and Jill Incorporated Chapter of Indianapolis.

Doris is the mother of two children, Edgar Faulkner Jr. of Muncie, and Coral of Sherman Oaks, California. She has two grandchildren: Edith, in school at Central High and Edgar, at Sutton Elementary. Widowed from her late husband Edgar in 1972, Doris married Vernal Stewart in 1981. "My greatest love is helping children," Doris said of the teaching profession.

## Reverend J.C. Williams

Reverend J.C. Williams was the first president of Delaware County Ministerial Association as well as an organizer in the Terre Haute community of Vigo County. He organized the Lexington Club in Terre Haute; the Liberty Citizens Club in Martins Ferry, Ohio; and the Delaware Club in the Muncie area community.



As a pastor, he served the Second Baptist Church in Martins Ferry, Ohio; County Line M.E. Church in Atlanta, Ga.; Methodist Episcopal and Cedartown M.E. Church in Cedartown, Ga. He was a church associate while at Disciples of Christ in Durham. He then pastored New Castle M.E. Church, Princeton M.E. and Bonneville M.E.

(cont. on pg. 16)



# NAACP convention is a success

By a Staff Reporter

Indiana's NAACP State President Franklin E. Breckenridge told a Muncie press conference that the Indiana group will focus on civil rights, education, voter empowerment, economic empowerment and community development, youth development and membership in the coming millennium.

Breckenridge also announced partnership between the NAACP and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"It's an opportunity for us to get together and have workshops for educational purposes, meal functions, luncheons and banquets to recognize people and to honor those who have worked and made outstanding contributions during the last year.

"We also will have a memorial service for deceased NAACP members, volunteers and workers," said Breckenridge of the

Muncie convention.

During the first full day of the convention, former Indiana Assemblyman Hurley Goodall was guest speaker at the Life Membership luncheon.

Delegates attended workshops on economic development, facilitated by Carol Davis, and branch administration, facilitated by the Rev. Julius C. Hope.

There was also a workshop on religious affairs. Afterwards, at a public mass meeting Breckenridge gave the State of the NAACP address.

The convention continued throughout Saturday with workshops on membership, education, housing, and a labor luncheon where Charles Session was the speaker.

Breckenridge was re-elected president, defeating Eunice Roper-Allen of East Chicago, Ind., banquet and president's ball followed.

The convention ended with a women's Sunday morning breakfast and installation of the new

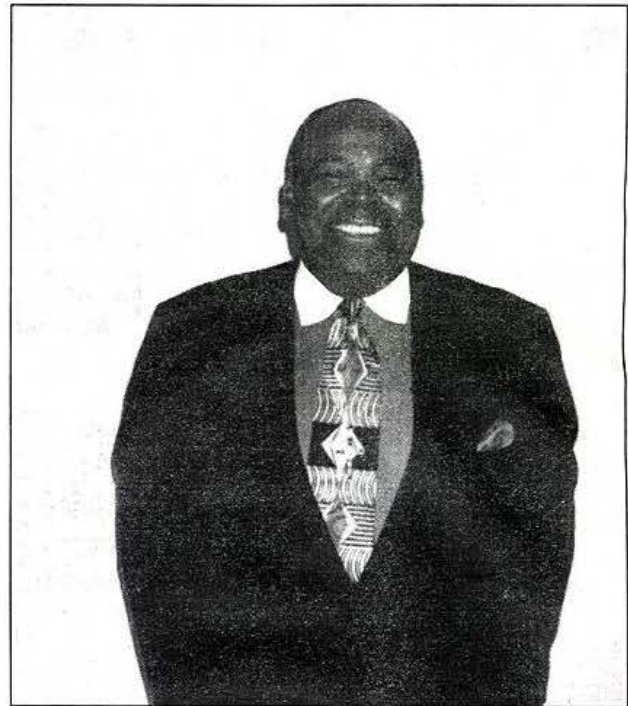
officers.

Muncie NAACP branch President Edward McNeary said Breckenridge has told him that "this was considered the best state convention that's ever been held in the history of Indiana."

McNeary and his wife, Ella, along with the members of the Muncie committee organized and planned the convention. Ella McNeary was the chairperson.

"I really want to thank the local Muncie planning committee for all the hard work that they've done to make this state convention a success," said Ed McNeary, "because without them, it would not have been successful.

"We would also like to thank the corporations and banks for their support and the public for their attendance. "I would also like to thank Phyllis Bartleson and staff for putting together the delegate registration packets. The local chapter is so grateful for that."



Indiana's NAACP State President Franklin E. Breckenridge

Convention 2000 will be held in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

## Ball State students win HUD national award

Ball State University students' research on eight low-income neighborhoods in Muncie has won a national award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Muncie Neighborhood Studies project, completed in May by Ball State's 3rd-year neighborhood planning studio, is among the nationwide recipients of HUD's Best Practices Awards for 1999.

Ball State's community needs assessments and neighborhood profiles placed in the top 10 percent of the nominated projects, said Teresa Jeter-Newburn, community builder fellow for HUD.

More than 3,000 projects and organizations were nominated for the awards, which recognize outstanding and innovative uses of HUD

assistance to better serve families and communities.

"These are HUD's equivalent of the Academy Awards, given for outstanding performance in service of the American People," said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

"The award winners can serve as models to groups in other communities working to build affordable housing, spark economic development, create jobs, fight housing discrimination, expand home ownership and help homeless people become self-sufficient.

HUD defines a "best practice" as a program, project, tool or technique that generates a significant positive impact, can be replicated elsewhere, displays creativity in addressing a problem and demonstrates the effective

use of partnerships and effective leveraging of resources.

Communities and universities across the country have been contacting HUD's Indianapolis office to learn more about the Muncie Neighborhood Studies partnership, Jeter-Newburn said.

The Muncie neighborhood project also received one of HUD's 50 community and Planning Development Program Awards.

Using HUD's Community 2020 software, the 22 urban planning students in the Ball State studio spent the spring semester analyzing Muncie's McKinley, Minnetrista, Whiteley, Old West End, East Central, South Central, Industry and Blaine neighborhoods; which are eligible for HUD assistance.

Groups of three and four students each worked with neighborhood leaders and representatives, collected census data, conducted a comprehensive housing condition survey and talked with residents about neighborhood issues.

The studies examined economic, social and physical issues in each neighborhood, including demographics, education, employment, crime, land use, homes, transportation and community needs.

Profiles of each neighborhood were placed on a CD-ROM and the World Wide Web for on-line public access. The summaries are on the city of Muncie's Web site at [www.cityofmuncie.com](http://www.cityofmuncie.com).

The project reflects a partnership between Ball State, HUD and Muncie's Community

Development Department, which will use the studies for its 5-year consolidated plan update.

"The information from the study will allow us to better target where we need to put housing and infrastructure money and where to do economic development," said Jerry Thornburg, Muncie's community development director.

The Planning 302 studio was taught by Linda Keys, associate professor of urban planning and associate director of Ball State's Office of Academic Research and Sponsored Programs, with Jeff Bergman, city planning director for Franklin, Ind.

Through the project, students learned about techniques and information management tools involved in neighborhood planning.



# Branson outlines coalition's 1991 goals

by Judith McGhee Mays

Between a hectic schedule and taking the time to pause for a holiday gift exchange and fellowship, Coalition of 100 Women Inc. president, Linda K. Branson spoke briefly on her organization's focus and the subsequent events that will take place during 1991. Each year, several scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who are pursuing a higher means of education. The organization also sponsors a debutante cotillion held annually in June.

Elected officers of the Coalition of 100 Women Inc. are: President Linda K. Branson, 1st. Vice President Ella McNeary, 2nd. Vice President Ruth Ann Blair and 3rd. Vice President Mary E. Williams.

Also, Recording Secretary Pearl Cleaves, Assistant Recording Secretary Marilyn Fuller, Treasurer Julia Duerson,



Judith Mays

Financial Secretary Wilma Ferguson, Assistant Financial Secretary Catherine Evans, Parliamentarian Elberta Glenn, and Historian Emma Sue Davis.

The Coalition in February will host their annual ethnic buffet which culminates the observance of Black History Month.

The first annual Holiday Banquet of the Union M. B. Church was recently held at Ball State University's Cardinal Hall. The invocation was given by the Rev. W. J. Jackson pastor of the church and master of ceremony for the evening was Mrs. Charlene Downey, a member. The remarkable talent of the Bell Choir, of First Baptist Church, captured the beautiful sounds of Christmas and, I'm told, the food was delicious.

Speaker of the hour was Deacon Willie Gholar who outlined the importance of fellowship. It was a time of

special awards and presentations, a celebration of many blessings and shared good will.

Coordinator of this event was Mrs. Erma Green, a nurse at Ball Memorial Hospital and president of the Helping Hands.

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc., was founded on Dec. 5, 1935, by Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune. Its premise then, as now, is to provide a vehicle which black American women can harness their collective talents, thus developing strength, productive leadership and sound community development.

Dorothy L. Height is president of the Washington, D.C.-based organization, which boasts 31 national affiliates. The Muncie Chapter was organized by Mrs. Bea Moten Foster. This local chapter meets 10 a.m. every second Saturday of the month in the Radisson Hotel. Meetings, however,

are not held during July and August.

Included with the \$15 membership fee is a quarterly magazine titled, Sisters.

A major project of NCNW, co-sponsored with the City of Muncie, is the annual citywide Black History Program. Also a special recognition program for fathers is sponsored. Each year 20 men are honored. These men are Christians who love God, have not divorced and love their families. They exemplify role models for the church and community.

This special program has been held in March for two consecutive years at the Minnetrista Cultural Center.

Perhaps your organization has an upcoming even or news you'd like to share. You may pick up a form at 1306 N. Broadway, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Are you looking for a  
Oldsmobile, Cadillac or Honda?  
Before you leave town  
come see me.

We have a big selection  
with LOW PRICES!



SAM SUMNER

# BRADBURN

OLDSMOBILE • CADILLAC • HONDA, INC.  
300 West & McGalliard • MUNCIE Ph: 282-5955

Bradburn Olds has made a company-wide commitment. We have put ourselves in your shoes. With lowest prices, largest inventory, quality people, quality cars, it's our promise they will be on when you come in!







Names of the children in the play are listed from Left to Right  
Jasmine Person, Kala McCallum, Martella Peterson, Catilyn Hendricks, Jenson Person, Trae McCallum, Phillip Grimes, Justin Person  
Brendon Thomas, Emily Grimes, Amber Anthony, Brandon Thomas, Dominique Hughes, D' Antae Williams, Dawanna Hughes,  
Tyler McCallum, Adam Grimes, James Grimes, Laron Anthony, Tonisha Mauldin (not shown), Jason Person (not shown),  
Ebby Grimes (not shown), Ericka McCallum (not shown)

The play "Jesus Comes to Earth" was presented at Trinity UMC on Sunday, December 14. Members of the cast were the children of Trinity. The play was directed by Mrs. San Bonita Milton, Mrs Ella McNeary. Mrs. Mattie Prtle and Miss. Lucretia Flagg. The props and decorations were assembled by, Mr. Lee Foster, Mr. Robert Milton, Miss Lucretia Flagg and members of Trinity's Youth Choir. Ericka McCallum presented a reading. Ebby Grimes assisted the directors with the children. Reverend William B. Grimes read scriptures to describe each scene.

Not . Not . Not .

# What you really want in a pharmacy! <sup>SM</sup>



**ALBANY HEALTHCARE PHARMACY**  
**Open to the public.**

**MON - FRI 9-6, and SAT 9-1 • 349 W. First St., Albany (1 block south of Hwy 28) 765-789-8585**



# 'Trinity Church honors 7 at 106th anniversary

BY JUDY MAYS

Trinity United Methodist Church recently celebrated its 106th anniversary with a "Wall of Fame" banquet at Ball State University's Cardinal Hall.

During the 1895 summer several families were invited to attend a meeting at High Street Methodist Church to discuss starting a church to meet the needs of black families that had moved to Muncie's south side.

Trinity became a refuge for many who suffered various degrees of social problems including unemployment, discrimination, poverty and drug abuse. In an excerpt taken from a souvenir booklet, the former pastor, the Rev. Jacob C. Williams, is quoted as saying:

"Our church wants to bring the Spirit of God to our people by helping them to find new goals for living, to discover perspectives and aspirations through our active concern for the very least of people."

Williams, was the church's longest-serving pastor, from 1961 to 1988. He has been one of Trinity's 31 leaders.

The banquet honored what the organizers called God's messengers for their service to church and the community. The honorees were: The Revs. Alvin Burton, J.C. Williams, Timothy Shelton, Karen Lang, William B. Grimes, Richard Johnson and Bryant Crumes.

Lang, Shelton, Ferguson, Johnson and Grimes were at the dinner.

Pastor James Williams represented his father, who was unable to attend. Benita Smith was mistress of ceremony for the evening, which drew about 80 guests.

Reading selected scripture, from Romans 10:14-17 in braille was Demetrius McCallister. Pastor Charlotte Levi,



And the honorees are... Rev. Richard Johnson, Rev. James Williams (representing Rev. J.C. Williams), Rev. Mark Ferguson, Rev. Timothy Shelton. In the foreground are Rev. Karen Lang and Rev. William Grimes

Paramount Community Church, Pastor Jack Hartman, High Street United Methodist Church and Pastor Kevin Woodgett, Church of the Living God spoke at the dinner.

Levi commended Trinity for the impact it has had in the community.

Hartman said the sister church has assisted him in various ways, including helping to pay a utility bill to keep someone's lights on. Hartman said that Pastor J.C. Williams and congregation made a tremendous impact on the community and their conference who had little knowledge of the black experience.

Woodgett said: "God doesn't give vision without provision. It is important to understand it is God who calls." Woodgett closed his remarks by singing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness-Oh Lord."

Also on the program were Jessica Harris who performed a spiritual interpretive dance to "I Have So Much to Thank God For." Joyce Porter recited "If God Would Go

On Strike" and the Barnes family rendered a medley of traditional gospel songs.

The honorees also had their say.

Lang, who served from 1988 to 2001, was noted

for the diversity she brought to the church, her ability to motivate others in service and her initiative in joining other churches, regardless of denomination to reach the

lost, edify/equip the saved and raise social consciousness through outreach.

Ferguson encouraged his former congregants to stay focused and grow.

Grimes said serving God is their mission. "The only true success is in the Lord," Grimes said.

Johnson, who served as an associate pastor, said he was so thankful to be a part of this. "This is the first time I've ever been affiliated with anything of this nature," Johnson said.

"I came to Trinity a little down, a little beaten and ran into a man called the Rev. J.C. Williams

Shelton also expressed his appreciation of Williams. He said to the church members, "This evening shows the best of who you are."

James Williams read from a letter forwarded by his father, J.C. Williams.

The letter reflected remembrances of the church's history and its voice in the community and outreach efforts.

Current pastor is Rev. William B. Grimes.



The "Wall of Fame" Committee from left are: Zietta McCallister, Ella McNeary, Mattie Pirtie, Gayle Irvin, Alice Ammor and Diane Smith. Not pictured are Brenda Johnson and Phyllies Burks.



# THE MUNCIE TIMES

VOL. 14, No. 7

ALSO SERVING ANDERSON, MARION, RICHMOND AND NEW CASTLE COMMUNITIES

APRIL 1, 2004

## Selma's Mayor Perkins excited about returning to Muncie to speak at Saturday's MLK Dream Team prayer brunch

By T. S. Kumbula



Mayor James Perkins Jr.

Selma (Ala.) Mayor James Perkins Jr. said last week he's looking forward to a return visit to Muncie

where he will speak Saturday morning at this year's Muncie MLK Dream team brunch at the Muncie Community Civic Center. The brunch starts at 10 a.m.

Perkins was a hit last year when he also came from Alabama for his first Muncie visit. Although he is in the middle of his re-election campaign and has forsaken trips outside Muncie, he said he could not resist the entreaties of Muncie MLK Dream Team Chair Bea Moten-Foster to return to Muncie. Moten-

*continue on page 3.*

## Muncie woman gets top Indiana NAACP health post

By T. S. Kumbula

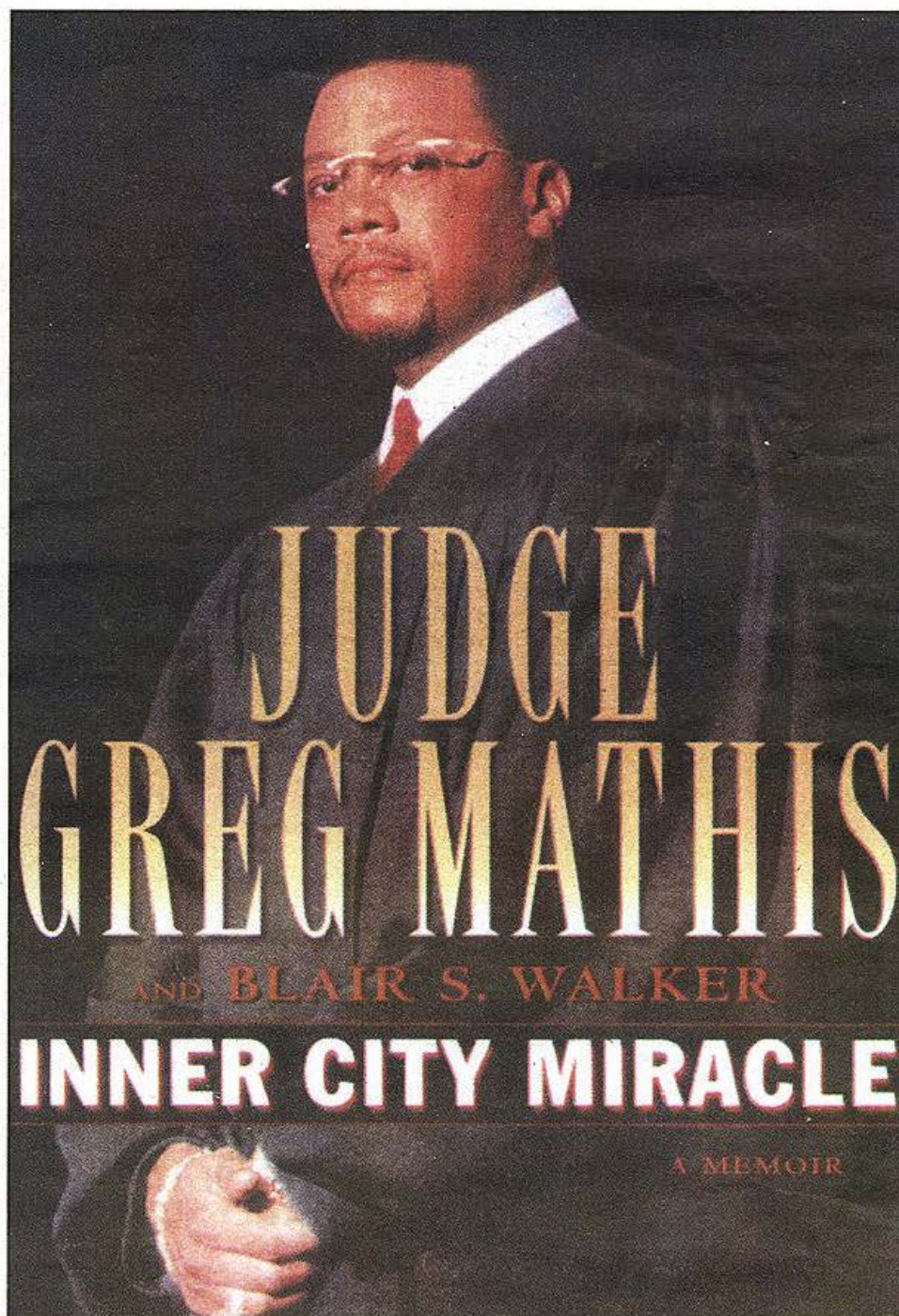


Ella McNeary

Muncie resident L. Robinson McNeary has been appointed statewide chair of the Indiana NAACP Health Committee.

In that position, for the next 2 years, McNeary will be responsible for coming up with strategies, goals and techniques for improving health care, diet and nutrition among

*continue on page 4.*



Judge Greg Mathis will speak at Central High School April 22 at 6:00 p.m.  
**FREE • FREE • FREE**

Presented by the Dr. MLK Dream Team (*see story on page 5*)



# The Muncie Times Outstanding Citizens Award Program

The last Saturday of every month, The Muncie Times will have a special luncheon to recognize citizens who have made contributions to the Muncie community. The next appreciation will be Saturday, February 24, at the Career Center, in the president's room.



Barbara Metcalf-Bell



Bonnie Breedlove



Elizabeth Shaw



Ella McNeary



Pastor L.V. Booth

These community leaders have impacted the lives of so many people. They have given time, money, resources, and manpower in so many areas. This event is to provide a platform for the community to say thank you. There are many people in our community who have given of themselves for years and in many cases the community has not properly let them know that we noticed their good and caring works. We would like for our readers to submit names of anyone they feel should be recognized for The Outstanding Citizen Award. Nominations should be sent to Outstanding Citizen, The Muncie Times, 1304 N Broadway, Muncie, IN 47303. This event is free of charge and invitation only. Invitations are available at The Muncie Times or from the honorees.

This program sponsored by The Muncie Times Charities.

The Program will be broadcast Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. on cable Channel 42



# Visitors stunned by power of 'Before Freedom'

by Judy Mays

The Minnetrista Cultural Center and the Minnetrista

ience to say it mildly... very moving. Others agreed with her.



(L-R) Darryal Hawkins Jr., Simmons, and Dr. Robert Foster.

Council for African American Culture recently hosted an open house in conjunction for the traveling exhibit "Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South."

This Smithsonian Institute exhibit is an eye-opening view to an era of human degradation and suffering.

The open house gave Muncie residents of all ages an opportunity to relive that era.

"We had 170 people to confirm reservations. We're very pleased. The attendance during the exhibit has been good as well," said Karen Vincent, Minnetrista program officer.

"The exhibit was overwhelming because Americans believe in freedom, yet we've managed to convince ourselves over and over that some people are not equal to others. We use that to justify behavior that should not be acceptable in any society," said Muncie judge Barbara Gasper-Hines.

Dr. Jon Hendrix, of the Ball State biology department said, "The exhibit brought to mind that there is no biological basis for the term race. We are all members of one genus - one species."

Carolyn Cline, of First Merchants Bank, said, "I thought this was an eye-opening exper-

"I thought the exhibit was very interesting, very touching. It brought back some memories of past life experiences," said Shirley Scott, another First Merchants Bank employee. "I feel bad about the treatment of people but I appreciate seeing how it was back in the days like that," said Marcus Waters, 15, a Central High School student.

At least one guest felt that something was missing.

"I think there was, for me, a key element that was missing which really highlights the essence of dominance and power. The piece on rebellion didn't tell nearly enough.

"For instance, the Bacon rebellion which was perhaps the bloodiest rebellion of slaves was the springboard for the classification of race in this country. One way to impact such an important period is to focus on this dominance. Slaves weren't brought here to work but to be dominated. I think the truth makes it more realistic," said Darren Moxo, assistant director, Ball State office of Multicultural Affairs.

Wiley Flake, an employee of the Dana Corp., in Marion, Ind., attended the open house with his family, which includes his wife, Fatu, a native of Sierra Leone, West Africa, and sons

Edward, 9, and 8-month-old Brycin.

"I read a lot. Looking at the slaves packed like sardines was very realistic," said Flake. Added his wife: "It was emotional for me. At one point I said this is terrible. I knew about slavery but there were certain things that I was not aware of."

Iman Dodson, 14, of Indianapolis, visited the exhibit with grandparents Carl and Delores Rhinehart. He said, "It made me feel thankful for people who stood up, for people who died in the war so that I wouldn't have to live like that. It shows me that you can make a difference if you stick together."

Dr. Maria Williams-Hawkins, a Ball State telecommunications professor, said she appreciated being able to listen to the transcriptions of slave stories. "It gave the exhibit life, I was glad that the center was able to get this exhibit."

"I could feel the pain. I was actually weakened by what was spoken in this exhibit. This exhibit is very pointed. I had to sit down before I could finish

it.

"I think all people need to be exposed to the truth. We don't fully understand what we're doing to others unless we can experience their pain," said Dr. Robert Foster, a retired Ball State professor.

Owen Glendening, CEO and president of the Minnetrista Cultural Center, said "This is the first opportunity the center has had to work this closely with the African American community. Programming of all kinds is why we're here.

"Through this kind of exchange we can only build a stronger community. I've been impressed with the reaction of people to the exhibit. It begins with an emotional response to what they see, sometimes anger, guilt, or sadness. Those emotions are followed by some kind of call to action," Glendening said.

"People have said to me, 'How do we get the word out, everyone should see this.'"

"This is an exhibit that gets people thinking and feeling. I



Ed and Ella McNeary enter the lobby of Minnetrista Cultural Center.

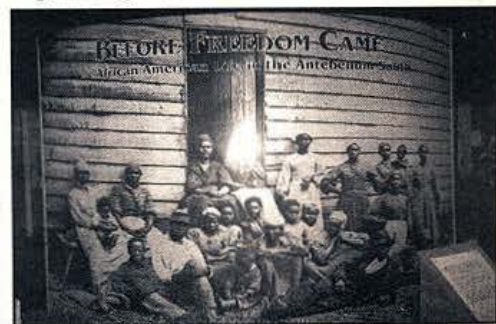
personally invite everyone to come see it."

Those attending the open house were received by Marine Corps guards. They were also treated to a buffet featuring a special dish of beef, chicken, rice and peppers, served with cornbread. The dish was prepared by Armando Abelha, a Ball State graduate from Guinea-Bissau, West Africa.

"Before Freedom Came" is at the center through Sept. 15. For more information, call 282-4848.



Carl and Delores Rhinehart visit exhibit with granddaughter, Iman.



Walter Berry and Owen Glendening view artifacts at the "Before Freedom Came" exhibit.



## Muncie celebrates life, times of Rosa Parks at Shaffer AME Chapel ceremony

By Maria Williams-Hawkins, Ph.D.

On a cool, sunny Sunday afternoon, Muncie community members came together to celebrate Rosa Parks's life and also got a history lesson.

Members of Shaffer Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1501 E. Highland Ave., Muncie, as well as representatives from the community, united to pay tribute to the late Rosa Parks, the woman whose efforts to stop the madness of segregation earned her the name mother of the Civil Rights Movement.

The presenters shared historical connections that tied their families and experiences to the changes that Rosa

Parks set forth.

The program began with a memorial march around the block upon which Shaffer AME Chapel sits. After singing "We Shall Overcome", led by Evangelist Viola Boyd, Minister Judy Mays led

the congregants around the block for a silent march.

The Rev. Maria Williams-Hawkins greeted the attendees, while Mays, Pastor Charlotte Levi and Boyd led the devotional portion of the program.

The program incorporated all ages. Darryl Hawkins Jr. led the litany of remembrance and thanksgiving and Youth With A Future attended as a group, celebrating Parks's life. The Union Missionary Baptist Praise Team provided music for the evening.

The Rev. James Williams II offered a local perspective on the Civil Rights Movement when he discussed members of the Muncie community whose acts of courage helped desegregate the automotive industry. He

paid tribute to several unsung heroes.

Three community members who were recognized by the program organizers identified their connection to desegregation efforts: Richard Ivy, Muncie personnel director, explained his family connection to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He said his family and family friends provided meeting places for boycott organizers. Phyllis Bartleson, director of the Human Rights Commission, talked about the changes she had facilitated in Muncie over the 17 years that she has served. Jayne Beilke, a native Minnesotan, said her hometown was considered one of the "whitest" cities in the country. The lack of diversity in her home-

town, however, in no way stopped her from understanding the need to work with all people. Beilke is the first non-black president of the Muncie NAACP chapter.

The key message was given by the Rev. Dorothea Norwood, Shaffer AME Chapel's new minister, who was introduced by Evangelist Tonda Kay Bell. A history maker herself, as the first woman pastor at Shaffer, Norwood expounded on Parks's significance and contributions to the civil rights of all people.

Although not part of the regular program, immediately after the closing, members of the audience were asked to come to the front of the church to see some display items.

A coin receptacle was placed on display to let people see the kind of coin machine people placed their money in on the buses like the Montgomery, Ala., one on which Parks made her stand.

MITS produces these coin machines. There are three still in existence: One is on display in the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit. Another is permanently displayed at the MITS office and the third was placed on display for this celebration. This unit is the traveling display.



L-R Mary Dollison, Martha Billings and Ed McNeary view a duplicate coin box that was in the bus that Rosa Parks rode on the historical day when she refused to move to the back of the bus.



Recipients of the Anthony L. Oliver Civil Rights Oliver Award L-R James Williams Jr. for Father Rev. James Williams, Joyce Marshel for Mother Alice McIntosh Kelley, Jan Beilke president of NAACP, Ed McNeary and Ella McNeary



File McNary

Pre-interview phone call

~~Ed~~ Ed president 1998-

1999 convention in muncie

M

Florida, Tallahassee

Ohio, Miami of Ohio

Muncie (51 years)  
Ball State

42

1 son is an alum in Ball State  
went to Chicago  
went to Gurney Illinois

Keep living

I don't have time

Grandmother

- kids came from burris

~~49~~ married 49 years

biblical person

parents married 49 years

one topic to possibly avoid

- her leaving of Ball State

Dr. Zimmerman



## Questions for Ella

### **Childhood and Family**

- At a young age family plays a huge role in shaping a person. Could you describe your family to me?
- You mentioned it our pre interview phone call that you wanted to talk about your parents. Would you like to do that before we talk about your later life?
- You had a rather large family growing up. Can you tell me what that was like?
- Children always have some interesting tales of mischief growing up; can you describe to me some of your childhood adventures?
- You grew up in Florida right as World War 2 was ending and American soldiers were returning. Could you describe growing up during this time period?

### **Hometown**

- There is a saying; it takes a village to raise a child. Was that the case with Webster, Florida?
- To a child the world around them seems to be rather impressive and large. Can you describe Webster to me growing up?
- You grew up in the deep south right as the Civil Rights movement was beginning to gain traction. What was that like?
- Elementary schools often help to shape the minds of young children and how they view the world. How did you elementary school do that?

### **High School**

- Most people have at least one teacher or faculty member in High School that has a large impact on their life. Is there someone like that in your High School education?
- I'm seeing here in your biography that you were the valedictorian of your class. How did you feel knowing that you were valedictorian?
- I'm also seeing on the biography form you graduated when you were 17 years old. Did you skip a grade?
- Today there are a lot of college students who go out of state for their education. Why did you stay in Florida?

## **College**

- There is often a bit of a transition in going from High School to college. What was your transition like?
- Often students change their majors. Did you originally go to FAMU with the intent of getting a dietician's degree?
- Most students are part of some extracurricular activities during their college years. Did you participate in any extracurricular activities on FAMU?
- Could you describe to me a normal day for you at FAMU?
- As part of this project students read *Ball State: An Interpretive History*. In it the authors often describe BSU as being in "splendid isolation" with regards to the various social movements of the 60s. Was this the case on FAMU?
- You graduated from FAMU with degrees in Food, Nutrition and Institutional Management. Can you describe to be that feeling when you received your degree?

## **Ball State**

- You came to Muncie to work at the Ball Memorial Hospital. What was your job there? Why did you leave?
- I found in Ball States Media Repository a clipping from the 1980 Miss Black Ball State. You were listed as a patron. What exactly does that mean?
- I found a clipping from Ball States Daily News, that in 1976 there were complaints about the variety of food on campus with one student stating that mashed potatoes were served twice a day every day. What was the situation?
- In another DN clipping, in 1980 there was an issue of contamination due to coliforms. As manager of Studebaker dining how did you handle that?
- According to your Bio form you received your Master's Degree in nutrition from Ball State. How has that degree helped you to be successful in life?

## **Civil Work/NAACP**

- In 2001 you received an award from the Muncie Times. The award was the Most Outstanding Citizen award. Can you describe how it felt to receive such an honor?
- I know that your husband Ed is or was a member of the NAACP. Are you a member of the organization too? When did you join?
- In 2004 you were appointed by the NAACP to be the chair of the health committee (Muncie Times). What did you do in that post?
- In 1999 Muncie hosted the NAACP state convention, which you chaired the planning committee for, then State NAACP President Frank Breckenridge

said it was the best convention in the state of Indiana. How did it feel to receive such praise?

### **Family**

- In our pre-interview phone call you mentioned your son was rather famous nationally with his fraternity. Can you tell me why you think that is?
- There's a saying, "Behind every strong man is a great woman". What did you do in helping Ed as he led the NAACP chapter in Muncie?
- In a clipping from the Muncie Times in 1998 you're son Edric expressed a desire to be President of the United States. How did you feel when you heard that?
- Has your son always expressed an interest in politics?

### **Church**

- I found in a newspaper clipping from the Muncie Times that in 1992 you directed the play "When Jesus Comes to Earth". Could you tell me a little bit about that?
- In another clip from 2001 you were part of a group in Trinity Church that honored 7 individuals. What did you do to help plan that event?
- The church plays a huge role in Muncie's African American Community. You yourself are very involved in the church. Why is faith so important to you?

### **Muncie**

- According to a 1999 article from the Muncie Times you stated that Muncie was not close to realizing Dr. King's Dream citing that there was still

prevalent racial discrimination, particularly in the legal system and churches.

Has this situation improved?

- According to the 2005 Muncie times there was a celebration of Rosa Parks at Shaffer AME. During that ceremony you and Ed received the Anthony L. Oliver Award. What was that whole experience like?
- According to a Muncie Times article in 1992 titled “History Month Chance to Remember Those Who Made a Difference” it mentioned that you were the only African American Dietician in Muncie. What is or was that like?
- I found a 1991 clipping by the Muncie Times which described the Coalition of 100 women which you were/are a part of. Can you tell me what the coalition is?

## **Future**

- As part of this project students read *The Other Side of Middletown*. I When this book was published in 2004 African American Munsonians said that the biggest dangers to the safety of neighborhoods were drugs and prostitution Do you still believe that is case?
- How can Muncie’s neighborhoods be better protected?
- Do you believe the recent actions taken by police in towns and cities such as Ferguson Missouri and New York are threats to Muncie?
- How can situations like that be avoided if it all?
- Looking forward into the future, what challenges do you think Muncie will face?



- When look you back at everything you have accomplished in life, what are you most proud of?

# Archives and Special Collections

## University Libraries



Ball State University  
Bracken Library, Room 210  
Muncie, IN 47304

Phone: 765-285-5078  
FAX: 765-285-8149  
Email: [libarchives@bsu.edu](mailto:libarchives@bsu.edu)

### Ball State University African-American Alumni Oral History Project

Archival Identification:

Interviewer(s): Nicholas Evans

Interviewee(s): Ella McNeary

Videographer(s): Lauren Hendricks

Supervisor(s): Dr. Michael Doyle

Date of interview: April 1, 2017

[several seconds of pause before audio plays]

Hendricks: Rolling.

Evans: Hello, my name is Nicholas Evans today's date is March—no April 1<sup>st</sup>—April Fools—2017. I'm here on the Ball State Campus with Mrs. Ella McNeary as part of the Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project. Before we begin I just want to say thank you uh for taking the time to come here and share your story with us. So the first question I'm going to ask is can you tell me when you were born—when and where you were born?

McNeary: I was born July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1943 in Wildwood, Florida

Evans: Okay. Can you tell me a little bit about your parents?

McNeary: My mother and father were jewels. Dad was nineteen years older than my mother.

[1:00]

She was his second wife. Dad had raised prior to that, three of his stepchildren from a previous marriage. But their dad never came back and got those children, so dad adopted them. He later met mom and they were married and between this young woman and this old man they had ten children. Now one of their desires, because they did not have the opportunity to do this—the desire was that they would make sure that all ten of their children graduated from college and would live a far better life than they had ever lived. This was their goal. They had made a pact about this. So, they were able

[2:00]

to live that goal. I only wish that they both had lived to see their grandchildren. And see what they are doing now. Because some of them have exceeded some of the things that we had done.

Evans: Could you just tell me the names of your mother and father?

McNeary: It was Reverend William Levy, L-E-V-Y, Robinson Senior—and Mary Lee Howard Robinson. July 1931.

Evans: And the names of your brothers and sisters—?

McNeary: We'll start with my oldest brother down to the youngest—

Evans: Okay.

McNeary: William Levy Robinson, Jr.,

**[3:00]**

George Robinson, DVM [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine], Raymond Jonathan Robinson, Lillie—L-I-L-L-I-E—May Robinson Biddle—B-I-D-D-L-E. Earnestine Azalea—A-Z-A-L-E-A—Robinson Hutcherson, Ayra C. Robinson, or Arya Charles Robinson the first, PhD,

**[4:00]**

Ella Louise Robinson McNeary, Delores—

Both: (laughs)

McNeary: Elaine Robinson Brown, Ida May Robinson Dawkins, and Alpha Lee Robinson Gaskin. Now there are five of us who are deceased now, if you wish to put a “D” there.

**[5:00]**

We'll start with Alpha, the youngest one. And, then there is Delores, Earnestine, Raymond, and George.

Evans: What was that like growing up with such a big—such a huge family?

McNeary: Well I'll tell you, it was great. We had lots of fun. We lived on a farm, so dad was also a farmer. But anyway, it was great just living out there on the farm together and having so much fun together. Mom and Dad were quite religious, and I think that's what probably really got us through—



Evans: Um-hm.

McNeary: Because they were prayerful people all the time.

**[6:00]**

They taught us well when it comes to the bible and so forth. They weren't strict parents. But, what they said, they meant it.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: You know, so we knew not to get in any kind of trouble and to always do our best. My dad really had—he had the—I guess the money and so forth, he literally was a genius, I do believe. Very brilliant. Very Brilliant. And I can remember at night times when Mom would be in kitchen cooking or sewing clothing, she sewed beautifully all the time. Or canning all the time, because she had such a large family. Dad would have all of the children, from the youngest to the oldest,

**[7:00]**

at our dinner table, by lamplight—kerosene lamplight—teaching us. And that's probably why we excelled so much at times. But he was a great teacher, and I always say that Dad—he was the one who invented scrabble, I do believe, before Milton Bradley ever had heard about it. Because we would sit at that table and he would scramble words and expect us to be able to within a period—a time period—to tell him what those words were. So we did that a lot. And then, when we were in college— even though most of us were very bright—whenever we came home with a math problem, or whatever, all we had to do

**[8:00]**

was ask Dad. Now Dad may not have known how he got the solution—

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: —But he would have the solution for you. He certainly would. And I just think about him sometimes and wish that he had had a greater opportunity. But as I'm talking, he also had taken care of his mother, and his four sisters and one brother after their dad died. That's one of the reasons why he had to drop out of school earlier than he did. Because he had one sister, Aunt Anna—I didn't know her. But anyway, Aunt Anna, that was his oldest sister, and she did teach school. I suspect those other sisters could have, but they may have gotten married earlier, I'm not sure, and started having a family.

**[9:00]**

But, anyway, on the farm (laughs) we had about any animal that you could have on a farm. And I could remember one thing that we used to do—I don't know why we did it—but before the school bus came in the morning to pick us up, we would all go to the hog pen and watch our hogs.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: I don't know why! And then—you know—then we would go and catch the school bus. And it was just something we did. But, one morning I was just fascinated, or afraid, or something. One of our chickens—(laughs) —jumped over in the hog pen, and before I knew it he, had bitten the side out of this chicken, and you could see her gizzard glistening in the sun,

**[10:00]**

I will never forget that. Never. (Laughs) And then there were times when Dad would maybe kill a hog for us, and we'd usually walk about—the children—we had to walk about a mile away from home so we couldn't hear the hog squeal when dad killed the hog. We didn't want to hear that, because a lot of those animals had—they were like our pets, and so forth. Then there were times when my sister Delores and I—I was two and a half years older than she was, so, we did so many things together. We lived in a very wooded area and we were out in the woods all the time, climbing trees. You know those Tarzan vines?

**[11:00]**

Evans: Yes.

McNeary: On vines, and I must have fallen out of a tree several times.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: Probably why I have back—part of the reason why I have a back problem now. And I would fall in the undergrowth down there. And I was always afraid—here I'd go, “Oh Lord, please Lord, don't let a rattlesnake crawl over me, Lord please.” (laughs) laying down there on the ground in all of this mess and I am sure most of my brothers and sisters, when I talk to them, the same thing happened to them that happened to me. You know how you always think you are the only one? Well I wasn't the only one.

Evans: Education was very important to your—

McNeary: Yes. Very important.

Evans: —family. Could you describe—could you describe your high school to me?

McNeary: Now our high school, it was a small school because we lived in a very small town.

[12:00]

It was an all black school. It was one where—of course, we had all black teachers, but it was one where I don't think that the teachers were very well informed about many things. I think about us as we were growing up. We were not informed about scholarships and so forth. And I know that we would have gotten scholarships in my family. Especially Mom and Dad being poor and ten children, and there were five of us in college at one time, and there were three, at least most of the time. So, I'm hoping that they are doing better. At least—well, the school

[13:00]

doesn't exist anymore, now. Because the schools were later integrated around 1968. And then that made a difference. You know?

Evans: Yeah.

McNeary: We used books that were from white schools. They were—when we were, say, in third grade, we were using the whites first grade books that—used books. So, the blacks were getting the leftovers from the white schools at that time. And that's really about what I can say about the school. We had the usual sports, except it took us a little while to get a football team

[14:00]

but—and sort of took us a little time to get a band. But we did get both those.

Evans: What was the name of your High School? Just to clarify.

McNeary: It was Mills High School. Webster, Florida.

Evans: Now, usually, students will have one teacher or a faculty member that really has a great impact on their life and determining—like kind of helping to push them towards a career. Was that the case with you? Did you have a teacher that was—

McNeary: No.

Evans: No.

McNeary: No. Had no counselors. None. Each of us had to choose what we thought we wanted to do. I remember the day that I went in to register for classes my freshman year.

[15:00]



I had no idea what I was going to major in. No idea.

Evans: Your freshman year of college?

McNeary: Right.

Evans: Okay.

McNeary: I happened to go in and I guess I saw this home economics table and I decided, “well, I’m going to go over there.” I know a little about home economics. And I went over there and I finally saw a table that—or something that said Food Nutrition and Institutional Management. Well, that sounded good to me. So that’s what I majored in. If I had to do it over again, it probably would have been chemistry because that’s that my minor.

Evans: What was the—what college did you attend?

McNeary: Florida A&M University

Evans: Okay.

McNeary: F-A-M-U if you want to. That’s the college we all started with. Why? Because it was predominantly—

**[16:00]**

it is a black university predominantly and it was one of the three colleges in Florida, I believe, that blacks could attend at that time. We were not allowed to attend any other college or university in Florida.

Evans: Was that because of—that was because of Jim Crow or just—

McNeary: It was because of our race.

Evans: What did—what was that like? Growing up with—in—at that time and not being able to attend another university?

McNeary: I don’t think that it concerned us that much at that time because all ten of us attended FAMU And—but there—later in life, it became sort of a problem

**[17:00]**

because when I graduated from Florida A&M University, because I was to be a dietician, I had to complete a twelve month dietetic internship. There were no places in Florida or in the south that would take blacks as interns. So, I finally

found myself at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. And that's how I got to Muncie. I know that my brother Ayra was the first black, in any subject or any class, that graduated with his PhD

**[18:00]**

from the University of Florida.

Evans: Wow.

McNeary: I had another brother, George—I won't say that he was the first black, but he was one of the first blacks that got his D—DVM from Cornell University. But now, I don't know what it was like at Cornell.

Evans: You—but before we go into your time here in Muncie and Ball State I just want to ask a couple more questions about FAMU. There is always a transition for students coming from high school to a university. What was your transition like? To go, from a little, a little town in Florida, to a college?

McNeary: Afraid. You know, those kind of feelings?

**[19:00]**

Evans: Um-hm.

McNeary: I remember my very first week. I cried the whole week. I wanted to be home with my parents and my brothers and sisters. I did have one brother there though, which is made it pretty nice at that time. Because he was one who seemed to always care for me, which, I mean, which he does now. That was Ayra, he had been very active on campus, so he was everything, I mean president of almost everything that was worthwhile on campus. And the previous year he had been president of student government association. So people got to know me quite well, things like “Well that's Ayra Robinson's little sister, and she thinks she's cute.” Those kind of things which wasn't the truth but anyway, he was there five years because he majored in pharmacy.

Evans: Okay.

**[20:00]**

McNeary: And he later on in his life became Dean of the Colleges of Pharmacy at Florida A&M University and Howard Universities. And so, that was my transition period. Basically. But, I'll say my sophomore year I was taking chemistry at the time, and we had an amphitheater that—that chemistry class because, I mean, it was a huge class. Huge class. And we had this teacher; she was sharp, real sharp. But I was afraid of that class because we had students from Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville,

Orlando, you know, the larger cities in Florida and here I am from Webster, Florida. And I am sitting there all afraid. Well do you

**[21:00]**

know, before the end of the class, she had me helping her teach the class. And there I was on that stage, because it had a stage in it, the amphitheater, and I was helping her teach that class. She'd have me on stage with her almost every day later on. And that was great because it told you that I had learned some chemistry myself, if I could teach those students, because we did have some brilliant ones in there. And that made me feel a lot better.

Evans: What was the—what was the name of your chemistry teacher? Do you remember?

McNeary: Her last name was Dix, D-I-X, but I cannot think of her first name.

Evans: That's okay. Now, you mentioned that your brother was very involved on campus—

McNeary: Oh yes.

Evans: Were you also very involved?

McNeary: I wasn't that involved but

**[22:00]**

there were something that he was involved with that I—I followed some. But I still was a very shy person; of course he tells me that he was extremely shy. He still says that, "I was so shy." But he always said that "there things that I had to do before I was fifty." And he would say—no, before he was forty rather. That it was just something that was within him that made him do these things and at one time I honestly thought he was going to be very much like Dr. [Martin Luther] King because he was that type person. He was also the type person who could lead the students well. He did far better than the students than the president of the university.

Evans: (laughs)

McNeary: He just had to—all he had to do was walk out on stage,

**[23:00]**

and if the students were kind of riotous or noisy, he could calm them down immediately, but the president couldn't. So, he was well liked and very well thought of and an excellent student. More excellent than I was, because I was shy.

Evans: What—you mentioned that you'd followed—you followed him into a couple of



organizations. Which ones specifically, do you remember?

McNeary: There was one, which was a Pentecostal student council. I'm sure because he was in the YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association] that I became a member of the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association]. He was involved a lot in the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People] And so was I. And there are two other ones that I am almost

**[24:00]**

certain he was involved and that was SNCC, S-N-C-C, Student Nonviolent Coalition [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Commission]—and CORE—Congress On Racial Equality.

Evans: So, you joined—you joined the NAACP—

McNeary: Um-hm

Evans: At your college—at college. What—what was it about the NAACP that encouraged you to be a member?

McNeary: The one thing that I can remember that really encouraged me—I'd always interested—but it really encouraged me was that fact that we went through the period of time when the students were doing their sit-ins and so forth at McCrory's and Walgreens and some of the other places.

**[25:00]**

I was one of those students, but I didn't—because Mom and Dad—I knew that they really didn't have that much money or anything to get us out of trouble.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: I didn't do much sitting-in, I have to say that. But, one day, my sister Delores and her roommate and my roommate, had gone downtown and gotten arrested. Someone came to my room and told me. And, I did—still didn't know whether I should go down or not, but a number of students were marching down to this Baptist church, we were just—and we—I went with them. We were just in the church, singing, praising God, singing—what's the name of the song—"We Shall Overcome"

**[26:00]**

and some of those songs. And we look up, and behold, there is a whole group of policemen at the door of the church. The ones from Georgia, too. They came, of course, over Florida state line, because, you know—and Tallahassee is right there

almost at the state line. Here are these Georgia cops too, and they've got their nightclubs, everything as if we were doing something wrong. They came in the church, dragged many of us out of the church. A lot of the girls got splinters in the legs because the floors weren't carpeted at that time. And they used tear gas; my best friend had a hole knocked in her leg with tear gas. And I think about her now, but she's retired now, but she was a professor now, at the University of

[27:00]

Maryland. And her name was Betty Wright— W-R-I-G-H-T—Blakely, now. She's also a dietician, but anyway, that was one of the—that is the thing that caused me to go ahead and join the NAACP, except that I got arrested that day, also. So we went to jail. Okay, I'm in jail about four hours, and you're wondering what people might think at so forth, which they didn't think anything about it. And when we finally got out of jail, it was the NAACP—the National NAACP—paid all of our bonds.

[28:00]

All of it. And, I mean, there were a number of students over those three or four days, because they had a lot of students locked at the fair—in at the fairgrounds. I wasn't one of those and I was in four hours. We—because one thing is we ran the night matron silly that night. Everybody needed an aspirin, but we did aspirins in succession. When she gave me an aspirin, then after my aspirin then someone else needed an aspirin, then someone else needed an aspirin, and so forth. But I did meet the present president of the Student Government Association because he was in jail (laughs) also.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: And that is how I met him. (laughs) So you met a few people in there that you didn't know. But I was appreciative to the NAACP very much for getting us out of jail.

[29:00]

Then, two days later, there was a trial, and we had over a thousand students were there. Now there were few from FSU [Florida State University], because the white students at FSU were in sympathy with the black students at FAMU

Evans: FSU being Florida State University?

McNeary: Florida State, um-hm

Evans: Okay.

McNeary: We each were on the—one on this side of the hill. Tallahassee is the hill, because

it is a hill, believe me. They were on that side of the hill, we were on that side of the hill. So, they were in sympathy with us, and a few of them got arrested too. And primarily, though, because they were boycotting the Leon Theatre. The Leon Theatre—there were three of those owned by the same man. The blacks could attend one and the whites could attend two.

**[30:00]**

So the FSU students were boycotting, because we could not attend the two white ones.

Evans: Did the boycott work? Did it work? Were you guys then able to attend the other theaters?

McNeary: I wasn't during my period of time because I graduated in 1964.

Evans: Okay.

McNeary: Now maybe later—Well, we know later that they could attend (Laughs)

Both: (Laughs)

McNeary: We know now they can (laughs) but anyway, I'm sure that later on they could. I started to say none of my sisters told me. But I had three younger sisters, but they started at Florida A&M, but in most instances, because of their major or something, they had to transfer in two years to complete it. So I'm not so sure.

**[31:00]**

Evans: So after you graduated, you took up an internship at Miami Valley of Ohio Hospital?

McNeary: Yes.

Evans: What was that like coming from a Deep South state to a very northern state?

McNeary: Afraid (Laughs) at first. And one thing—I was the only black in my class of interns and we lived in a house right on the property of the hospital, and of course I was the only black in the house. And there were some cultural things different. One was like straightening my hair, at night, when everyone else went to sleep because I did not want any of the girls to see me. And—but there were two that I became very, very good friends with. We are very good friends today, fifty-one years later, we're still very good friends. I got letters at home,

**[32:00]**



now, that I should have mailed a couple of weeks ago to these—both of these girls. One lives in Richmond, Virginia and the other one lives in Port Alleghany, Pennsylvania. She was a Pennsylvania Dutch girl, could do anything, at least I thought she could. Anyway but, they were two of the very likeable, very nice girls. You know?

Evans: Um-hm

McNeary: And I remember we had to take one of our class—one of our classes, I'll say, at Ohio State. And ,of course, if you see that campus Ball State could not compare with Ohio State. Well, we went to Ohio State

[33:00]

but we were to go in twos. But there were only nine of us, the program would accept ten, but number ten didn't show up. So there I was, and I hear we're going to Ohio State, and we are going to send everybody in twos, you know, so you always have a roommate and so forth. Well, I remember hearing one of the girls from Iowa State—she didn't know how conscious I was of hearing things—say “Wonder who they're going to send Ella with?” We were going to a class one day and I heard her say that. Course I wondered who they were going to send Ella with, too.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: But they had it all worked out that those two girls that I was real good friends with— they had it so that—Dawn overlapped with—she was there one week by herself,

[34:00]

the second week I came and I was her roommate. The third week Lucy came and she was my roommate. Then she was there the next week by herself. And this was the first time we had ever seen co-ed dorms. There were all these boys on the elevators and we were saying, “Why are these guys on the elevator in the girl's hall?” Oh you know, we thought we were an all girls hall—

Evans: Ah.

McNeary: —but there were guys there. Now, remember, that was in 1964 and '65, so we had guys then. One thing that I learned there, or maybe did not learn, (laughs) I'm not so sure.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: I learned how to go to the cafeteria and the library. And I think that

those are the only two places I learned during

**[35:00]**

that three-week period. Cafeteria. Library. (Laughs) But that was really an interesting experience, because at that time we worked with very low-income people from the community talking to them about diet and so forth and it was really interesting.

Evans: You mentioned there were cultural differences with the—with the nine—with the nine girls you were a part of for your internship. You mentioned having to straighten out your hair—

McNeary: Yes

Evans: What were some of the other cultural differences? Do you remember?

McNeary: There might have been some—I can't remember, you know, full—But I know that was one, the hair.

Evans: Yea.

McNeary: Possibly, our eating habits maybe, or the type food

**[36:00]**

that we ate. We all came around though, whatever it was. And, I think, basically, that may have been the only cultural differences that I can think of right now. The one thing that I sort of appreciated during my internship was that, we normally would have a dinner—and don't ask me the name of it because I can't tell you right now—

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: but it was the—more of the elite people of Dayton, Ohio always attended this dinner. And the interns had to plan everything. We had to do it all. They had to have speakers that night and from every class—and I think there were nine classes

**[37:00]**

of students at the hospital at that time—but Ms. Baker, who was our instructor most of the time—Ms. Downey was the Head of the Department—Ms. Baker had chosen who she wanted to have do that speech. And that speech, I did that, for that night. Now that was one of those shaky moments too. All these people out there (laughs), and anyway, it sort of insulted one of the girls, I think, because she was the one from Iowa State, who though she was smarter than any of the dieticians. Any. She was an intern same as I was. But anyway,

**[38:00]**

I think she thought that she would be the one asked to do it. But I did a good job. It was nice.

Evans: Do you remember what your speech was about?

McNeary: No. I do not know.

Evans: That's okay.

McNeary: Remember, I mean, that's fifty-one years ago!

Both: (Laughs)

Evans: So in your time when you—in your time at Ohio State as part of your internship, you mentioned that you worked with lower-income people in the community. Was that kind of what pushed you to be such a big such a civil servant here in Muncie? Did that kind of help inspire to work within your community.

McNeary: I don't think so.

**[39:00]**

I think that our parents teachings, caused us to reach out to other people because Mom and Dad always told us, "You must give back, no matter what happens, you've got to give back to your community. " And we were taught that by Mom and Dad, all of our lives, and that's what we did. And then, my going through that being arrested and finding out the goals of the NAACP. [whispers] I don't know them—

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: But anyway, those were the things that inspired me.

Evans: When you—when did you complete your internship?

McNeary: In 1965.

Evans: And you were then given your degree? Or was—

McNeary: No I had my degree before then.

Evans: Okay. So then you came to Muncie?



McNeary: I came to Muncie. After graduation, there were a few hospitals that

**[40:00]**

had positions. I first got an opportunity in Dayton, Ohio at St. Elizabeth Hospital, but several of the dieticians talked me out of it. They said because the food service was run by the ARA—American Restaurant Association—they didn't think I should get involved with it. They said—because they can move you all over the nation, you know, after you have been there six months. Came to Richmond, got a position at Reed Memorial Hospital, but it was the same. The dieticians talked me out of that, it is run by the American Restaurant Association, don't take that position. And then I was looking through one of our journals — The American Dietetic Association Journal, at the time—and I happened to see where

**[41:00]**

they needed a dietician at Ball Memorial Hospital. I knew nothing about it, but I knew there was nothing at home for me near Webster. So, I just decided “well let's drive over to Muncie.” And they brought me over to Ball Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Graves hired me instantly, so that's the story of how I got to Muncie.

Evans: Who is—just to clarify, who is Mrs. Graves?

McNeary: She is—she was head of dietary at the hospital, then.

Evans: Okay. What was your— what was your first impressions of Muncie? When you came—when you came to it all those years ago?

**[42:00]**

McNeary: The only thing I can think of is that it was a much bigger city than Webster, Florida. That's really the only thing—and then in the winter months of course, I did not like the winter and I still don't like the winter.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: But those were my first impressions, you know?

Evans: Um-hm

McNeary: And I remember nothing about Ball State when I first came—didn't even know Ball State existed. Didn't know that Muncie existed. The only thing I can remember, when I was growing up, was that my mother did so much canning, she did have Ball jars at home.

Evans: Oh, really?

McNeary: But I didn't—but you know, at that time I wouldn't have known, but she had Ball Jars.

Evans: That's really interesting.

McNeary: Yes, it was quite interesting. We had this—oh, it was a storeroom or a storehouse at home—must have been about two-thirds

**[43:00]**

the size of this room. My Mother and my Father, because Dad worked with Mom many times, canned food all the time, and kept that place jam-packed with food all the time. I remember them purchasing cases with tomato cans in them. It was five—five hundred cans per case, and they two every year. They canned, we had our own home canner. We had our own sausage maker. When they killed hogs, or a hog, I can see Mom and Dad making sausage. And of course she was a great cook. And they inspired everybody and encouraged everybody. If you came by

**[44:00]**

our house, you were going to get a college application number one, because mom was going to give it to you. Because she had it in the living room on that table, in our living room—a little coffee table. And then she usually was going to have a word of prayer with you and then take you to the kitchen and give you a big plate of food.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: So they were encouragers, to all who were around us, all of the young people. And when—and there was—I can remember when I was in college and we would go home for breaks and so forth, there was this one guy who would always come by our house. Now he was a good friend of ours, but he would say—we'd say, "Who are you here to see this afternoon, Calice(??)?" "Well I came to see your daddy?" I said, "You did?" Yes I came to see your daddy." And I mean that is what they would do, they would come to see Mom and Dad before they came to see us sometimes.

Evans: (Laughs)

**[45:00]**

McNeary: Because they knew that they were going to have a very good conversation. And so our family was very well known in that area, and, as I said, Daddy was a very

brilliant man. And I do have to tell you this one thing. It is funny. Dad had beautiful handwriting, I mean he didn't scribble. He had beautiful handwriting. So this day, he's writing something and this one white guy comes by, and he knows Daddy real well. So he said, "Levy, I would've thought a white man wrote that."

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: "I never thought a black man could write like that." And that really was funny, when someone says that to you. "I though a white man had written it." Okay. Okay. (Laughs)

**[46:00]**

Evans: So you, you came to Ball Memorial Hospital?

McNeary: Um-hm

Evans: And then later, you, you started working here on campus as the Head of Dining at Studebaker?

McNeary: I was the manager of Studebaker Dining Service.

Evans: Okay so you were manager, were you a student? Were you pursuing your master's degree?

McNeary: I wasn't a student at first, but you know a little later?

Evans: Yeah.

McNeary: I decided to get my master's degree. Now it did not help me here at Ball State, none. I just wanted to get that in.

Evans: What—there's a lot of clippings, I just wanted to show you this real quick.

McNeary: Oh shoot.

Evans: This is a yearbook of the faculty and staff at Ball State, and I have circled your picture

McNeary: Oh am I on (Laughs) okay.

Evans: You are listed as a Manager—as Unit Manager

**[47:00]**

of Studebaker Dining. You—I found a clipping from the *Daily News* that you were—in 1980—that you were a patron of Ms. Black Ball State. Do you remember Ms. Black Ball State at all, at that time or—?

McNeary: I have no idea who it was at that time.

Evans: Do you remember working with the pageant though?

McNeary: No.

Evans: No?

McNeary: We probably gave some money.

Evans: Okay

McNeary: And I'm sure we attended the pageant—

Evans: Yeah.

McNeary: —because it's usually at Emens Auditorium and I'm sure that we attended it.

Evans: What—what was it like working as the Unit Manager of Studebaker Dining on campus? It was a new building if I remember correctly.

McNeary: Yes. That was the year in 1964—but I didn't start in '64, that's right,

**[48:00]**

I started in 1967. At first, it was just regular. It was nice at first, but I was only twenty-three when I started, and I'd previously worked at the hospital, then came here. So I was twenty-three when I started. The majority of my employees, let's say ninety percent, plus, were Caucasian. I being as young as I was, maybe wasn't ready for that yet, but, I did not have any racial problems at all. None. I can honestly say that. There might have been whispers in the dining rooms or somewhere, but I never felt that.

**[49:00]**

Until later, way later. We did have a great department head, she passed last year.

Evans: What was her name?

McNeary: Her name was Ella Nicholson, and she was the department Head of Dining Service and she was just like a mother, I'm telling you. I remember when she retired, I know I cried that day and I'm sure that most of the others cried, too. And



she made sure that we all go the retirement letter from her at the same time, so that no one could call the other one and say “Hey, Mrs. Nicholson’s retired.” Can you imagine that?

Evans: Um-hm.

McNeary: But then, I got another,

[50:00]

and that wasn’t the best. We had started the same day as manager. I had finally gotten a raise from Ball State, with me pursuing it. Going to human resources, it really wasn’t that great at all, but anyway, I got a small raise after I got my master’s degree. But I had told everyone in the department, which all the other managers and so forth liked me very well, so that wasn’t a problem with that. But she was the one manager, who had never sat down and had a conversation with me all those years. And she became my department head.

[51:00]

After I had gotten that little raise, I had told the others, I said, “Once she becomes head of the department, she’s going take that raise away from me.” And with her evaluations and different types of things of me, the raise was gone, because the university, or I should say our Director of Human Resources said, “Only your performance counts.” And I said to him to, one day when I visited him, I said, “When you are evaluated only on performance, your raise is based on whether your boss likes you or not.” This is what I said to him. He did not necessarily agree, but that’s what I told him. He would remember that I said it to him,

[52:00]

and I still believe that. So—

Evans: What was the name of the—for clarification, what was the name of the manager that gave you a poor evaluation? Do you remember?

McNeary: Yeah, I remember her name. She’s in Anderson. She was in Daleville. Her name was Anne Talley, T-A-L-L-E-Y.

Evans: So—

McNeary: But I’ve forgiven her. Thought I’d throw that in.

Evans: In another *Daily News* clipping, there was an article regarding contamination of the water—

McNeary: Um-hm

Evans: —in Muncie. What—do you remember what happened? What was—

McNeary: I don't remember exactly what happened,

**[53:00]**

I just know there was a contamination in the city water. And, at that time, we had to boil all water for everything. City residents were supposed to do it too. Now, what they did, I do not know. But I know what we did in dining service. Normally—well, I'll go back and say we had sixty gallon kettles over at Studebaker. LaFollette had eighty gallon kettles. We had sixty. And we would fill those kettles up every night with water. And we would boil it. And then—that was before the employees left at seven. They would boil this water, we put the lids on it

**[54:00]**

and it would be ready for the employees the next morning, the cooks and so forth, the next morning. And that's what we did for whatever length of time it was. And—I don't know whether you saw a picture— there was one picture that was in a food service magazine—it wasn't one on campus but it was—and believe it or not, I'm working at LaFollette in the summertime, but I was working with one of their cooks, and there is this picture of me (Laughs) in there with this LaFollette cook. It wasn't a Studebaker cook where we're—I don't know whether we were boiling water or cooking. I remember one student coming through the kitchen one day and he saw those big pots and he wanted to know if washed dishes in them. I said "No. We don't wash dishes,

**[55:00]**

we cook in those pots."

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: And because we normally do sixty gallons of chili and you would have maybe a cup or two left over out of that sixty gallons of chili over at Studebaker. You know, and LaFollette would do their eighty gallons of chili and maybe (Laughs) maybe they had two or three cups left out of their eighty gallons, so students didn't have—weren't aware of the quantities we were preparing. So—because when we would do the mashed potatoes, we were talking about fifty gallons of mashed potatoes every night, because they changed the menu at one time and Studebaker served mashed potatoes along with the starch every night. That's when the—after the students could go to any residence hall that they chose to. So

all of the boys came over to Studebaker—

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary —for the evening dinner. Oh, we had more males over there

**[56:00]**

and very few women coming over to Studebaker. (laughs) yeah. So those were things that determined what you served sometimes and how you serve it. There were these students, that's one of the factors, they liked mashed potatoes. Okay.

Evans: You—there's a saying, "Behind every strong man, there's an even stronger woman."

McNeary: That's true.

Evans: Your husband—

McNeary: (Laughs)

Evans: —Edward McNeary, was a member—was the President of the Muncie Chapter of the NAACP

McNeary: Um-hm. Yeah.

Evans: What did you do? How did you help him? How did you support him in working with the NAACP?

McNeary: Everything.

Both: (laughs)

McNereary: Well at one time, we really didn't have a secretary, at one period of time, so

**[57:00]**

any of the paperwork, I read, I recorded, I did anything that I needed to with the paperwork. We didn't have a membership chair at one time, so, I was the membership chair. He was the President, but I'm in background saying, "Now Ed, you should discuss this tonight. You should discuss that."

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: You know because—you know a lot of times, the woman is the pusher, she's in the background, but she's doing the pushing. And I don't think that maybe he had had some of the—many of the experiences that I had had by me living in the

South.

Evans: Yeah. So. And so you felt as though that—not that you felt, but—and so that those experiences kind of helped

[58:00]

you to help him—

McNeary: Oh yeah. Oh Yes.

Evans: —direct the NAACP here on campus. How did you meet—how did you meet Ed?

McNeary: I met Ed about a week after I came to Ball Memorial Hospital. Ed was working part time at the hospital and full time at General Motors. But I met him at Ball Memorial Hospital. I remember him calling me one night on the phone from upstairs—

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: —and wanting to know if I would have dinner with him in the cafeteria. I had never ever even seen him.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: (Laughs) He obviously had seen me though.

Both: (Laughs)

McNeary: So, you know, I said, “Well yes,” Because, see, at that time, I had no interest in getting involved in another relationship with a guy. All I wanted to

[59:00]

was make some money, send some money home to Mom and Dad so my other three sisters that were younger than I could go on—could complete their college. That’s the only thing that I really wanted to do at that time. And so we dated off and on, we dated some more, we dated for almost three years before we were married.

Evans: What year were you married?

McNeary: In 1968.

Evans: Now, to talk about your family real briefly, there was a clipping from the *Daily*—from—I’m sorry, not the *Daily News*, the *Muncie Times*. Your son Ederic—



McNeary: Yes.

Evans: —McNeary.

McNeary: (Laughs) Yes.

Evans: He said that he wanted to be President—

**[1:00:00]**

McNeary: Yes. Uh-hm

Evans: —of the United States. Has your son always had an interest in politics? Or was that something was kind of pushed upon. Not pushed upon but inspired by his father?

McNeary: No. No. He had an interest. I mean he really had an interest. He doesn't now. He's married. Got three sons. Buying a new home. But what I think primarily that may have dampened his spirits about politics is that the woman that he married is of a different religious background. Who doesn't necessarily believe in politics. So that has affected him a lot, in that way. And if I'm looking at it right,

**[1:01:00]**

it's going to affect my grandsons and I don't like it.

Evans: What are—what are the names of your—of your grandsons?

McNeary: Kairi—K-A-I-R-I— and Cameron, they're twins—Cameron with a C. And Kayden— K-A-Y-D-E-N—he's the youngest one.

Evans: Okay. So your son—your son says that he wants to be President of the United States and in 2008 Barrack Obama was elected President of the United States the first African American President.

McNeary: Right.

Evans: Being a member of the NAACP, growing up and watching the Civil Rights Movement evolve and—and do all the great things that they've done and to finally—an African American man is elected President. Can you describe your—

**[1:02:00]**

your emotions, your feelings at that time? To see that?

McNeary: I'm not an extremely emotional person, but you know, it did fascinate me. I mean, I was happy, I was elated. But now I did say this several times, I said it to my husband and maybe a few others. I said, "You know there—there's Barack Obama now and whites are saying he's black but I know the whole theory about that. They're saying he's black, I think, but he is actually half-white." You know, that's the way I felt. But still, I mean, I know his color and that thing people can see that part of him. But they didn't see the inside of him, what was really going to in there. But I mean, I was grateful that he became president,

[1:03:00]

as I would of most people who become president. Not all, but most.

Evans: In a 1990—I believe it was 1992 article, you, with the *Muncie Times*—yeah, no 1999, I'm sorry—you stated that "Muncie was not close to realizing the dream of Dr.—of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

McNeary: I did? (Laughs)

Evans: Citing that there were prevalent racial discrimination particularly in the legal system and the churches. Has this improved since '99, do you think?

McNeary: I can so more about the churches than I can the legal system. But within the churches, I'm sure that I meant that, as they say, "Sunday morning

[1:04:00]

is one of the"—what do I want to say? I can't. I'm sure that he knows it. Dr. Doyle knows what is says about Sunday mornings.

Doyle: The most segregated hour in America.

McNeary: (Laughs) What?

Doyle: If you want to repeat that.

McNeary: But, anyway, I can't think of what's said but it is the truth. That, I won't—it's not loneliest, but it's a period of time where it is the most discriminated hour, okay, of the week, I guess that's what most people say, because usually whites tend to go to a white church. Blacks tend to go to a black church. But I go wherever I want to go. But this is—it is the truth though that

[1:05:00]

this is the way you see it normally, that we're all separated on Sunday mornings. And then in the legal system, I may have, because of—looking around here in

Muncie, I did not see, I would say any, at that time, black attorneys at all. I do not recall that I saw any during my early days here in Muncie. There are a few now here in Muncie but I don't know what they're practicing really. What area of law they're practicing in. I know there was one young lady who was a member of our church. For years, she had gone to Southside High School here and she'd gone off and become a lawyer. But I don't

**[1:06:00]**

know what area she was in. And I know right now we've got another one who—she went to school at Central and she's a lawyer, but here again, I don't know what area she's in. And I'm sure there've been a few others.

Evans: So would you say that since you made the state—made the statement in 1999 that the situation has improved, or things are still kind of the same?

McNeary: I would say that things are still kind of the same really.

Evans: Um-hm.

McNeary: I haven't seen much difference in anything. Now with my husband and myself we're the type who just plow in wherever we need to plow in.

Evans: (Laughs)

McNeary: I mean. Just go, or whatever, I think nothing about it.

Evans: Right.

McNeary: Just go. And I say what I have to say. It's nothing derogatory

**[1:07:00]**

or anything like that.

Evans: (whispers) Sorry.

McNeary: But it's, you know—if I have talk about something, I do. And if I'm asked questions, I try to answer them as truthfully as I can.

Evans: How do you think that Muncie can become—can get closer to realizing Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream?

McNeary: Oh. I think that if there are more positions provided for blacks to serve in or work in, that would be a great thing. But I do know that recruitment has a lot to do with things. I also know that you've got to have people who will come to Muncie,

**[1:08:00]**

McNeary: also. Even—if they're not there, they're not going to get hired, in most instances. Now you may—once in a while, someone will go out and recruit someone or whatever. But you've almost got to be there in order to get employed or in a position where you are serving the community or whatever. So that's what I think about that.

Evans: Now there was another clipping from the *Muncie Times* in 1991 that talked about the Coalition of One Hundred Women.

McNeary: Right.

Evans: Are you still a part of the coalition?

McNeary: No. Well. No I'm not a part of it. I dropped and became a sustaining member.

Evans: Okay.

McNeary: And that meant that I only gave them a donation for scholarships and so forth. Too much friction.

**[1:09:00]**

Evans: What is the—what is the Coalition of a Hundred Women?

McNeary: We don't have it now, anymore. It has disbanded now. I think a big part of that—for lack of a president. Which several times they asked me, and of course I said no.

Evans: So when you look back on your life. Coming from Florida, going to college, then going to Ohio, then going to Muncie, working at Ball Memorial Hospital, working at Ball State and being a part of the NAACP here and helping your husband, what are you most proud of?

McNeary: You know, that's a hard one. But, really what

**[1:10:00]**

I am most proud of is my son. And that reason why I say that was because I had health problems over the years and we adopted our son. And he is so much like us (Laughs).

Evans: (Laughs)



McNeary: So that is one of the things that I am most proud of. My son and then I am very proud of my brothers and sisters and my mother and father but they are deceased now. So it is more like family that I am most proud of. There are a few other things that I—I feel pretty great about. Ed and I both are lay leaders in the church and lay speakers in the church, so occasionally we speak. And I should say preach.

**[1:11:00]**

We do that and then I do play the organ for church. I wanted to be a musician when I went to college, because I had done a lot of that in high school. But I didn't think my background was good enough when I went to college. So this is a dietician who wanted to be a musician.

Evans: (Laughs) So, you wouldn't—I think it's fair that you believe that family is very important?

McNeary: Very important.

Evans: And you—what do you hope that your grandchildren will—what do you want to see your grandchildren do, when they—when they become old enough to have jobs and families?

McNeary: What I would hope they would follow—continue to follow the trend that we set in the family now.

**[1:12:00]**

Which I'm sure they will because I have them in an educational scholarship already. They're (laughs)—and I am sure they're Dad probably has too and his wife. But I'm just hoping they'll be good people. Good people. That they'll have good jobs where they can adequately take care of their families, you know?

Evans: Yeah.

McNeary: And then I'm hoping they will pass their knowledge on down to their children and it continues in the family.

Evans: Just one quick question of clarification. What's the name of the church that you play the organ and you're a lay speaker?

McNeary: It is Trinity United Methodist Church.

Evans: Okay. Before— before we conclude here is there anything that I did not ask that you would like to talk about?

**[1:13:00]**

McNeary: I don't think so.

Evans: Okay. Well Mrs. McNeary, on behalf of the Ball State University African American Alumni Association, I would like to thank you for taking the time to share your story with us. And I would also like to thank you for your service to the Muncie Community and for everything you have done for the community and Ball State University.

McNeary: Thank you very much.

Evans: You're welcome.

**[1:13:27]**

*End of interview*

April 23, 2017

Dear Ella McNeary

Thank you for participating in an oral history interview for the Ball State African American Alumni project on April 1. The information you gave in your interview was very helpful. Your interview will be kept as part of the permanent collection of the Ball State Digital media repository.

A review copy of the transcript for your interview will be completed and sent to you within a few months. When looking it over, please make sure all proper names are spelled correctly and that the transcriber has accurately typed what you said. After you have returned your corrected transcript, we will make the necessary changes and send you a final copy to thank you for participating in this project.

I appreciated hearing you talk about your parents and their influence on you as a child. They sound like great people. Also hearing you talk about your time at FAMU was inspiring.

Thank you again for your time and your information.

Sincerely yours,

Nick Fran

Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History project.

April 23, 2017

Dear Ella McNeary,

Thank you for participating in an Oral History Workshop for the Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project on March 27. The information you gave was very helpful. Your interview will be kept as part of the permanent collection of the Ball State Digital Media Repository.

A review copy of the transcript of your interview will be completed and sent to you within a few months. When looking over it, please make sure all proper names are spelled correctly and that the transcriber has accurately typed what you said. After you have returned your corrected transcript, we will make the necessary changes and send you a final copy to thank you for participating in this project.

I appreciated hearing you talk about your parents and their influence on you as a child. They sound like great people. Also, hearing you talk about your time at F.A.M.U. was inspiring.

Thank you again for your time and information.

Sincerely yours,

Nick Evans

Ball State University African American Alumni Oral History Project



## Sources

*Baylor University Institute for Oral History Style Guide: A Quick Reference for Editing Oral History Transcripts*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Institute for Oral History, 2015.

Web.

Edmonds, Anthony O.; and E. Bruce Geelhoed, *Ball State University: An Interpretive History*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2001. Print.

Lassiter, Luke Eric; Hurley Goodall, Elizabeth Campell, and Michelle Johnson, eds. *The Other Side of Middletown: Exploring Muncie's African American Community*. Walnut Creek: AltaMira, 2004. Print.

Ritchie, Donald. *Doing Oral History*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2015.

Sommer, Barbara W.; and Mary Kay Quinlan. *The Oral History Manual*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira, 2003. Print.

## Digital Supplements

The documentary that I worked on for this project can be viewed with the DVD provided or following the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7u8-VFecbI>